



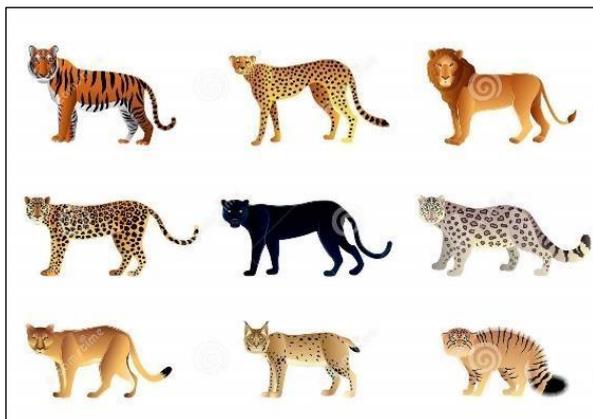
## JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER – 2

**Our January 2022 Monthly Meeting is on Thursday 27th January.**

**Our guest speaker will be Alan Key. He gave us a Zoom talk last March on 'Bears of the World' with some superb pictures and narrative.**

**The consensus was that we should ask him back so, this time, he will be talking about 'Big Cats'. Although not specialists in wildlife, he and his wife have journeyed to many corners of the world photographing wildlife - in the Arctic, Antartica, The Americas, India, Nepal, Borneo, Japan and Siberia.**

**He is a freelance aviation and wildlife photographer, treasurer of the South Downs Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and enjoys relating presentations to experiences both in aviation and wildlife viewing. The meeting will begin at 2.00pm and be held at our new venue, the Emsworth Baptist Church, where we have ample space for safer spaced seating.**



**Jane Yoward Vice Chairman**

### **An Interesting Offer from the British Museum for everyone! Free Talks over January, February and March.**

The British Museum and Camden Adult Learning are running a set of free 90-minute history webinars (on Zoom) this term. The courses are free and available for all adult learners across the UK. They do not require travel to the Museum and the talks cover different aspect of British, world and museum history. No prior knowledge needed with a chance to ask questions at the end of each talk. These spring term webinars are listed below. If you would like further information about each webinar or to enrol just follow this link

<https://www.webenrol.com/camden/Default.asp?page=list&catID=5&>

(You will need to cut and paste this link into your browser.)

**British cities at the British Museum: objects and Britain's urban past**

24 January 2022, 11:00-12:30

**Archaeology stories from the soil: what museum objects can tell us about their buried life**

31 January 2022, 11:00-12:30

## Love is in the air: museum objects which express affection for people and places

7 February 2022, 11.00-12.30

## Medieval queens: the life and times of four British queens

21 February 2022, 11.00-12.30

## Global connections: community and commodity links in the museum collections

28 February 2022, 11.00-12.30

## Learners' choice: a chance for you to help select the workshop topic

7 March 2022, 11.00-12.30

Katherine Hoare, Education Manager, <[khoare@britishmuseum.org](mailto:khoare@britishmuseum.org)>

## Get Up and Go Havant!

**These are not Ems Valley u3a activities, but are run for all Havant Borough residents aged 55 and over. Ed.**

This 'Get up and Go' programme is funded by Sport England and run by Havant Borough Council. If you are aged 55+ and live in Havant Borough, you will find a range of opportunities through this website to get active, get outside, try new experiences, have fun and socialise with likeminded people! All activities are run in a safe environment with experienced instructors and guides, and are suitable for anyone regardless of fitness, mobility or experience level! They can be attended on your own, with friends or family and will be at a pace to suit you.

To browse what is on offer, head to the 'book activities' page of the web site that you will quickly find by typing "GET UP AND GO HAVANT" into your browser. (Yoga, Pilates, walking, walking cricket etc.)

If you have any questions or concerns about any activity or would simply like to know more about the project, contact them on

email [info@getupandgohavant.com](mailto:info@getupandgohavant.com)

There are charges for some of the classes but there is also an offer available which can **GET YOUR FRIENDS FIT FOR FREE!**

### They say:

For ONE WEEK ONLY starting Monday 17 January, book yourself and a friend into one of our activities and you BOTH get to attend for FREE! Simply book through the Book Activities tab and then

drop us an email to let us know that the two (or more!) of you are attending as part of the offer!



## Wine Appreciation Four in the festive spirit!



Taking inspiration from the cooking programmes, where 'de-construction' is popular, we decided to ask our members to bring their own choice of wine and to tell members why they had bought that choice. We in turn provided a selection of Christmas goodies.

Members presented wines from:

- Malbec from Argentina recalling a Welsh Rugby Tour
- Freixenet from Spain provoking holiday memories
- Picpoul De Pinet with memories from a French trip
- a Elswvier from the Canadian Side of the Niagara Falls
- Campo Viejo from fond sailing memories in Spain
- A pink Cotes de Rhone simple because it was a favourite
- South African Sauvignon from British Airways work trips
- Graves Superior from the Bordeaux
- A Chistian Patat Appassimento
- 'The Guv'nor' a big fat red from Spain

Altogether an extremely varied collection showing the wide range of tastes from our enthusiastic group!

**June and Robert Lineham**

## Coloured Photos

In the last newsletter, I included a picture of North Street Havant which had been hand tinted, and several of you responded with suggestions of whether we were looking north or south in that familiar road. Jill Stanley is quite sure that the view is looking North – see her letter below! Of course, we did not have colour photography until the mid 1950s, and then then it took until 1970 for it to become the norm. Most of you probably have your early photos in Black and White. So, study the photo below of the Canoe Lake Southsea, and in particular the dress style. This appears to be a colour picture; it would have involved a lot of clever tinting!

Can you date this picture? The grass appears well worn through picnicking, and the brickwork on the mansions opposite look as though “Brick Business” should be investigating?? Canoe lake was originally built in 1886 and - in a nod to its past life as a salt water marsh - the lake is still filled with sea water which is topped up at high tide when a sluice gate is opened. The fact that the lake **is salt water**, rather than fresh water, makes it a fantastic spot for crabbing as small fish and crabs are brought in with the tide.

Dear Alan

I looked with interest at the photo of North Street in Havant and can clear up the question of orientation for you. The view is looking north, towards the present station. On enlarging the image you can make out the sign for the ‘Six Bells’ pub which stood on the right-hand side of North Street as you look north. The station is not visible because at that time it was a bit to the east of its current position and there was just a level crossing connecting North Street with Leigh Road. The station was rebuilt on the site of the level crossing in 1938, and that’s the one we use today.

More can be found about the history of Havant in a series of excellent booklets available on the website of The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre - <https://thespring.co.uk/heritage/local-history-booklets/> - and they are free to download. The original series was compiled in about the 1970s by the local history group.

Also, my father was a photographer and I remember, in my childhood in the early 1950s, watching him hand tint photos, using small pieces of cotton wool wrapped around the tip of a cocktail stick, and using oil-based paints. He worked with the paint in a circular motion, paying meticulous attention to detail and gradually building up the colour until it looked right. Of course this was well before the advent of colour photography!

Hope that helps and is of interest to your readers.

**Jill Stanley**



## **A Letter to the Editor**

### **Following the article on the downing of the German bomber at Denmead.**

Dear Alan

Just to say my father was In charge of the gun at Eastney that shot the first German plane down over Portsmouth .  
(Just to prove I read the newsletter!) **Jo Durant.**

Dear Jo

My father did not have such a glamorous job. He was in charge of the local Dads Army platoon and they seemed to spend most of their time on patrol at night putting out incendiary devices with bags of sand from his pit at Soake Road Denmead. However, unlike Captain Mainwaring, they did have real rifles and they practised in the Sand Pit! Also unlike Captain Mainwaring, no German submarine captain ever came ashore here, or not that we know of...**Editor**

## **Emsworth Railway Station**

You may well say that we have had heard quite a lot about Havant Railway Station lately but nothing about our own Emsworth station!

When did it all start? A lovely article "The Arrival of the Railway in Emsworth" by Dr Margaret Rogers tells us: An advertisement inserted by the LB&SCR appeared in the local press on 20th February 1847 requiring tenders to be submitted for building the stations, warehouses and platforms at Emsworth, Havant and Bosham. Contracts must have been swiftly entered into, because the three stations were opened on 15th March 1847. (it doesn't say whether they were completed or not!) One can imagine the level of activity though:

"A throng of navvies ('excavators', 'trenchers' and 'runners') as well as masons, platelayers, carpenters, fitters, blacksmiths and enginemen with picks, shovels, wheelbarrows, horse-drawn waggons and gunpowder must have descended upon the district in order to build the line and stations. Their typical staple diet was a weekly ration of 15 lb of beefsteak and daily quantities of porter – requirements which undoubtedly had a tremendous impact on local butchers and beer shops – and some of them would have required lodgings in the town. At Emsworth an embankment had to be built over the Ems in Brook Meadow, passing over North Street which then had to be lowered some 7ft in order to allow the passage beneath of high carriages or waggon-transported hayricks, but luckily no houses had to be demolished. The work also included the building of no less than four more bridges over parish roadways and paths, and one large and one small culvert under the embankment to carry the Ems. There was also a good series of crossing keepers' houses adjoining the various crossings between Bosham and Emsworth." This mad speed of construction suggests that the railway company was in a race, hastily trying to complete its building programme in stations approaching Portsmouth, which in turn did not have its own first station until three months afterwards, in June 1847.

**Almost 100 people bought tickets at Emsworth on the day of the opening!**



***The picture above was taken in 1910 and shows a Billinton B2 4-4-0 tender engine is about to cross the bridge with a Brighton bound train.***

As well as the two platforms and a small booking hall entrance, Emsworth station had an adjacent signal box, placed on the east side of North Street, a large animal yard and sheds, a coal storage depot and, some 20 years later, two adjoining cottages, one for the stationmaster and his family and the other for railway staff. They were neat and compact, designed to accommodate the staff the LB&SCR envisaged appropriate to Emsworth.

The types of traffic Emsworth handled included goods, passengers and parcels, furniture vans, carriages and machines on wheels, livestock, horse boxes, prize cattle and vans, and station yard accommodation and reception for these was accordingly provided. Havant had a special loading dock for handling coaches and horses, but not Emsworth. Some of the timber required by Emsworth boat builders arrived by rail, to be off-loaded on to carts and waggons and sent onward to storage in Bridge Road, King Street, or direct to a shipyard. It was quite a dangerous enterprise to transfer large mast-sized logs from a railway waggon to a cart and was not without accidents! By 1872 the rail transport of cattle from Emsworth to Havant had grown in importance, under the auspices of livestock auctioneer Mr W Gatehouse of Emsworth, and monthly auctions in a field belonging to the Star public house in Havant adjoining the railway proved so popular that it was decided to hold them fortnightly. On 25th July 1860 the then stationmaster, Mr Mark Wenham, saved the lives of a Miss Bolmaison and a youth, Thomas Byerley. A long mail train was coming through from Portsmouth and a special from Goodwood Races approaching in the opposite direction, the noise of the first masking the arrival of the second. Mr Wenham bodily threw Byerley out of danger and then picked up Miss Bolmaison in his arms and leapt to safety with her. For this act of bravery Emsworth townspeople raised a subscription and later presented him with money and a silver snuff box.

## **The BATTLE of Little Big Finger!**

This story would not normally get into this newsletter except that the Editor is involved, drama and comedy reign supreme, he who has never been to hospital before is involved, and it contains overall a major tribute to our NHS! Eighteen months ago my little finger decided to start a curl towards the palm of my hand. By the 12<sup>th</sup> January it was well over half way there. It's called Dupuytren's contracture (nothing to do with Brewers Droop) I arrived at Southampton General by taxi at 7.15am trying to look totally nonchalant. Very pleasant booking-in lady who escorted me to a ward of four fellow sufferers who must have had other issues 'cos I could not spot a crooked finger amongst them. Then the questioning commenced. It seems the poor NHS have to guard themselves against all known diseases, Covid being just one. I had been asked to bath in a MRSA killer solution for two days before I had a regimental type all over inspection for tell-tale blobs of said disease. Passed but was asked related MRSA questions on at least four or five further occasions!

A diligent JAKE, a 23 year old boat repairer from Lymington, but now two months into nursing auxiliary and Jo, a lovely, bouncy daughter of David Ince from home town Emsworth, were the two inquisitors, often at the same time. Kathleen, the sister in charge was brought in on occasions. How much money have you got on you? About £200.00

Do you mind if we count it? It's only £165.00! (after a recount) ( 1 – 0 to them) The questions continued, how ever many forms do they have for little fingers? Any Dentures, Caps, Bridges and Crowns, Contact lenses, Glasses - My religion and next of kin caused issues of memory re phone numbers. We had just finished when the anaesthetist came in. It was just like old pals, for he had taken the bother to ring me at home the previous afternoon. A very caring man, Recki, it was the first of 3 or 4 chats I had with him that day! (I didn't mind that most of the questions had been asked and dealt with by the other two!) I had queried the need for a "General" but he explained why and added in a "Nerve Blocker" for good measure under the armpit. This was to lead to mechanical problems after the operation, because it was most peculiar to observe your forearm performing a total 360 degrees at the elbow without you having any say in the matter. Two issues here – one was you had no previous idea of how heavy that forearm could be, that is until it involuntarily hit me in the solar plexus with a force that made me gasp. The other issue cropped up the following morning when I was showing Anne how the effects were wearing off and I extended my arm skywards – movement left and movement right – ok – and then the damn thing came straight at me and hit me full in the eye! (and she didn't realise the pain I was in!)

Talking about this accident reminded me of the chat with Recki in the recovery ward. He peered me closely and said "you have a small cut on your upper lip". I must have been feeling on form by then as I quickly said " Don't you remember when the oxygen ran out and you had to quickly sock me on the chin".

I haven't mentioned the endurance walk from ward to theatre. By this time I was gowned and elastic stockings – with allowed underpants. This was the running garb to the theatre. Fortunately, they had mentioned that you could bring a dressing gown and slippers with you if you wanted. I was especially glad of these 'cos this walk involved several floors, many hundreds of yards and as much window shopping as you desired in M and S food hall and



WH Smiths plus the hospital canteen! But through all of this you were clutching your ward pillow which had a magic way of acting as the octogenarian's teddy bear! The ward auxiliary, Jake, came with me, bless him, as I would still be looking for it otherwise. On the door it stated "Neurology theatre" which made me stop and think about pulling out. Jake appeared confident however, knocked the door, and he was smartly told "we're still cleaning up!" Immediate visions of the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden came springing into my mind, and I know that the English shot most of the wounded on that day..... but Jake was not put off and when we did get in, he arranged my pillow at what turned out to be the wrong end of the "slab". I was instructed to get on, but the bar was set too high and I requested two feet nothing which I then managed. The pillow was repositioned, Jake said goodbye, did I detect a tear in his eye?, and two nurses descended on me before I could even think about escape routes. Imagine Judi

Milburn and Susie Barker from Ems Valley Book Group and that it what it was like. I have never witnessed anything so quick in all my life. I think that they must have had a hundred ops on their list that day and were definitely on piece work!

I had the triumphant ride back on a trolley, by two porters that were allowed to ignore all variable speed limits and of course use the dedicated lifts which I have often wistfully viewed. You feel quite royal at this stage, I think I managed a couple of back of the hand waves, and I was back in my homely ward. Back to Jake, Jo and Kathleen and more great repartee!

The only man I haven't mentioned was Mr A. Phillips, the surgeon. Another surgeon, "Mati" did come and introduce himself to me as "one of Mr Phillips' surgeons" He asked all sorts of questions before the Mr PHILLIPS put in a brief appearance. There was just enough time for me to say "Mati has just told me that you have promised to straighten the finger" and he replied "there's not a surgeon in the world that would or could make that promise" and the interview was over. But I did notice that my Mr Phillips had the very same face, moustache and whiff of debonairity as the Carry on film actor Leslie Phillips, so assumed that he must be his son, and that he, like Leslie would have a date that evening with a pretty nurse...

I was kept on the ward until I proved that I could eat, drink and manage the toilet, which was the yardstick for release. Jake questioned my assumption that I was going home by taxi, and said he needed to talk to his boss, Kathleen about this. Fearing an overnight stay I shouted after him " Tell her I have ordered and paid for the taxi!" They let me out at 5.30pm and I was home at 6.30pm.

Maybe I was lucky, but I came away thinking that I had been treated most "royally" for my first ever visit to a hospital, and I cannot speak too highly with regard to the friendly service and attention that I received. I know it was just a small day surgery visit but I was most impressed, and, on reflection had quite enjoyed my day, even though I had started by putting the gown on the wrong way!! Well done the NHS!

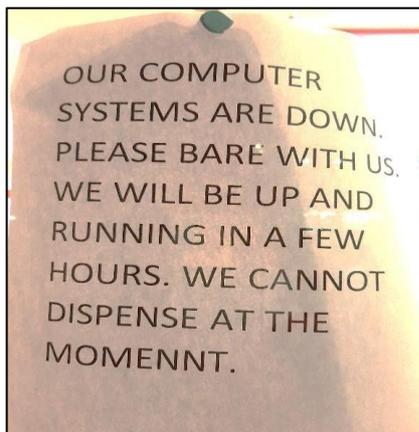
I hope you don't mind me sharing it with you, I wanted to join "Creative Writing" but they always maintained that they were full....

**YOUR MENDED EDITOR**

Dear Editor

I spotted this sign in the Emsworth'S Lloyds Chemists. I looked around but they all seemed to have run off.....

Annette Wood



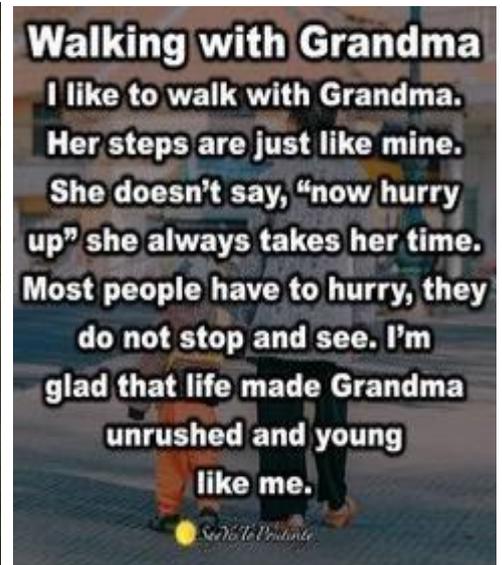
## **Wise thoughts to start off the New Year....**

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
4. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
5. I remember being able to get up without sound effects.
6. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

7. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
8. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
9. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
10. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
11. I run like the winded.
12. I hate it when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
13. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
14. When you do the squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
15. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
16. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
17. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Just spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
18. My luck is similar to a bald guy who wins a comb.

**"Your call is very important to us... Please enjoy this 40 minute flute solo"**

If you see me talking to myself just move along...  
I'm self employed...  
We're having a meeting.





## A Special Group, born between 1930 & 1945.

**Interesting Facts: If you were born in the 1930s to 1945 , you exist as a very special age group.**

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900s.

You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

You are the last to remember ration books for everything from petrol to sugar to shoes to stoves.

You saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans.

You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.

You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you imagined what you heard on the radio.

With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside"

On Saturday mornings, the Children's Matinee gave you newsreels sandwiched in between westerns, cartoons and slapstick comedy.

Telephones were one to a house if you could afford one, , often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen or the hall.

Computers were called calculators, they were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.

The 'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist.

Pent up demand coupled with new instalment payment plans opened many factories for work.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.

Your parents were glad you played by yourselves until the street lights came on. They were busy discovering the post war world.

Polio was still acrippler.

You came of age in the 50s and 60s.

Only your generation can remember both a time of a great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.

You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better...

You are "The Last Ones." You feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!!!"

## Nostalgia - Wartime Havant 1940

Confuse the enemy – take down all the road signs!



## EMS VALLEY U3A MONTHLY PLANNER as at January 2022. For Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Meetings are normally held from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon or from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

If you wish to attend a particular group, you must please first check with the Group Leader/Host/Coordinator – for contact details please check Ems Valley u3a website.

|        |      | MONDAY | TUESDAY                                          | WEDNESDAY                                                     |
|--------|------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | a.m. |        | Petanque 10.45<br><br>Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00 | Rambling<br><br>French (Conversational) Advanced/Intermediate |

|               |                |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | <b>p.m.</b>    | <b>Photography</b><br><br><b>Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30</b>                                                          | <b>Geology</b><br><br><b>Book Group 2</b>                                                                                  | <b>Ancient Greece</b><br><br><b>Crafts 12.00 – 2.00</b>                               |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>a.m.</b>    | <b>Camera Workshops – Zoom meeting 9.30</b>                                                                             | <b>Gardens</b><br><br><b>Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00</b>                                                                    | <b>Croquet Group 1 10.00 – 12.00 April to October</b><br><br><b>Pubs and Churches</b> |
|               | <b>p.m.</b>    | <b>Drawing</b><br><br><b>Board Games</b><br><br><b>Play Reading Group 2</b><br><br><b>Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30</b> | <b>Family History</b><br><br><b>Jazz Appreciation</b><br><br><b>Italian Beginners – Virtual Meet</b>                       |                                                                                       |
|               | <b>Evening</b> | <b>FILM at Emsworth Community Centre</b>                                                                                |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>a.m.</b>    |                                                                                                                         | <b>Petanque 10.30 – 12.30</b><br><br><b>Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00</b><br><br><b>Wine Appreciation Group 3 3.00 – 5.00</b> | <b>French (Conversational) Advanced/Intermediate</b>                                  |
|               | <b>p.m.</b>    | <b>Cycling For Fun</b><br><br><b>Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30</b>                                                      | <b>Wine Appreciation Group 1 (3.15pm)</b>                                                                                  | <b>Wine Appreciation Group 2</b>                                                      |
|               | <b>Evening</b> | <b>Travellers' Tales 7.30 pm (winter)</b>                                                                               | <b>Wine Appreciation Group 4 7.30 -9.30</b>                                                                                |                                                                                       |

|           |      |                                                     |                                                                     |                                                   |
|-----------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Week<br>4 | a.m. | Roman History<br><br>Camera Workshops – Field Trips | Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00                                          | Croquet Group 2<br>10.00 – 12.00 April to October |
|           | p.m. | Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30                       | Brick Business<br><br>Play Reading Group 1<br><br>Italian Beginners | Singing For Fun                                   |

The following Groups are active but meet either outside the scope of this table or have no set meeting days. More information on Ems Valley u3a website.

BRIDGE

DAY TRIPPERS

MODEL RAILWAYS

SUNDAY LUNCH FOR SOLOS – second Sunday at 12.30 p.m. THEATRE

VISITS

### **EMS VALLEY U3A MONTHLY PLANNER as at January 2022. For Thursdays and Fridays.**

Meetings are normally held from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon or from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

If you wish to attend a particular group, you must please first check with the Group Leader/Host/Coordinator – for contact details please check Ems Valley u3a website.

|           |      | THURSDAY                                                   | FRIDAY                           |
|-----------|------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Week<br>1 | a.m. | French (Mixed Ability)                                     | Spanish Intermediate 09.30-11.30 |
|           | p.m. | Science & Technology<br><br>Mah Jong 3.00 - 5.00           | Local History                    |
| Week<br>2 | a.m. | Music Appreciation<br><br>Birds & Wildlife 9.30 a.m. start | Discussion                       |
|           | p.m. | Mah Jong 3.00-5.00<br><br>Book Group 1                     |                                  |

|                   |             |                                                                    |                                          |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week<br/>3</b> | <b>a.m.</b> | <b>French (Mixed Ability)</b>                                      | <b>Spanish Intermediate 9.30 - 11.30</b> |
|                   | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>Mah Jong 3.00 – 5.00</b>                                        |                                          |
| <b>Week<br/>4</b> | <b>a.m.</b> |                                                                    | <b>Art Appreciation</b>                  |
|                   | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>MONTHLY MEETING<br/>EMSWORTH BAPTIST<br/>CHURCH<br/>2.00 pm</b> |                                          |

**All contributions for the next newsletter please  
to: [alanborrow@virginmedia.com](mailto:alanborrow@virginmedia.com)**