



MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER – 1

We reach Landmark membership figure!

It might be “The Sky Road” for Rod and Sarah Lipscombe, (below) but it was a landmark for the membership of Ems Valley u3a! Yes, they



have just become the 499th and 500th member of our u3a. We wanted to celebrate this milestone, so we sent our roving reporter (well, we only actually have an editor, and he’s got Covid) to track down these new members! Fortunately, Rod quickly realised our current limitations and sent a lovely C.V. for them both. They are both retirees from Faversham in Kent (daughter was the pull to Emsworth) and they were founder members of Faversham u3a. Fortunately, they found that their initial enquiries to Ems Valley u3a were answered in a “very friendly and welcoming manner” and they were soon signed up by Sue Kent, our membership secretary.

Rod has already joined the Photography group and is interested in the Greek and Roman history groups. Sarah is interested in Art, Crafts and Book groups. (already produced their own Christmas card) She was a member of the

Faversham Society, and after teaching, she worked in the tourist shop that they ran. (I well remember entering that lovely establishment which incorporated their little museum area some ten years ago – the resultant guided trip was much appreciated by my group).

Rod and Sarah both love travel, and already have been to Peru, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Vietnam. Their cruising has taken them all over Europe, North and South America, India, west coast of Africa, and Japan. Now, like us all, they have been slowed by Covid! It sounds as though we very much need to sign them up for “Travellers Tales”! Rod’s life has been in education and he also greatly enjoyed his time as a magistrate in the Family Court, so much so, that he hopes to be asked to sit again when and if legislation is passed to raise the age limit from 70 to 75! I was most impressed to hear that he was a finalist in Mastermind in 2000. His specialist subject in the first round was the Monsieur Pamplemousse books of Michael Bond. In the semi-final, he chose the Rock Band “The Doors” and in the final it was “Neolithic and Bronze Age Wessex”. Such was the competition, that in spite of achieving twenty points he came fourth. But, some Achievement Rod! You can definitely sit in the front row at the monthly meetings!

AND MANY HEARTY GREETINGS to ROD AND SARAH from all our Ems Valley u3a members!

Lots of subjects on offer for you to go back to “School” this June?

For more than 15 years the Southeast Area Forum of the u3a has been running a very successful Summer School at the University of Chichester, and all u3a members in the area are eligible to attend. This is a residential course, but if you prefer to “commute” from home, you can book the courses, evening activities and meals, thereby enabling you to participate fully and to meet others on your course(s). The non-residential cost (without evening meal) is £180. Booking is now open, just cut and paste this web site into your browser:



<https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/home>

What are the subjects on offer?

Cycling, Earth Matters, Family History, Four 19th & 20th Century British Poets, Fun with French, Hatha Yoga, Mah-Jong, Maths: Power & Patterns, Music: Blues and Folk Music in the USA, Ukulele for Beginners, and Walking on the Downs and Coast.

Something for everybody!

DAY TRIPPERS ARE OFF AGAIN!

With great pleasure Day Trippers invite you to join us on a visit to Southwick House to learn of the planning and execution of The D Day Invasion by the Allied Forces. **Date: 16th March, Time 10:40 for 11:00 start.**

An added bonus to our visit is the Royal Military Police Museum. Mr William Dick will join us in The Map Room where the progress of the invasion was executed and inform us of the planning and the harrowing challenges of making the D Day Invasion the great success that it was. This is a presentation that will both impress and move you. It is not easily forgotten!

Mr Dick's background is a full career in the Royal Navy. He served for 22 years leaving in the Rank of Master at Arms. His last commission in the RN was HMS Birmingham the Type 42 Destroyer.

His voluntary position at Southwick Park is Curator of the Royal Navy Police and Regulating Branch Museum. He has been doing presentations in the Map Room since 2013 when he retired from the Navy having always been interested in history especially the Second World War.

There are three museums in Southwick Park, our one (the D Day Map Room), RMP and the RAF. The only one not accessible at present is The RAF Museum.

Sign up deadline is Friday the 4th of March.

Price for the visit to Southwick House is £8.00 per person. Please bring cash payment on the day.

Following the visit, which will last approximately 1 1/2 hrs, we travel to the nearby Red Lion Pub for lunch. Postcode PO17 6EF Phone [02392386147](tel:02392386147)

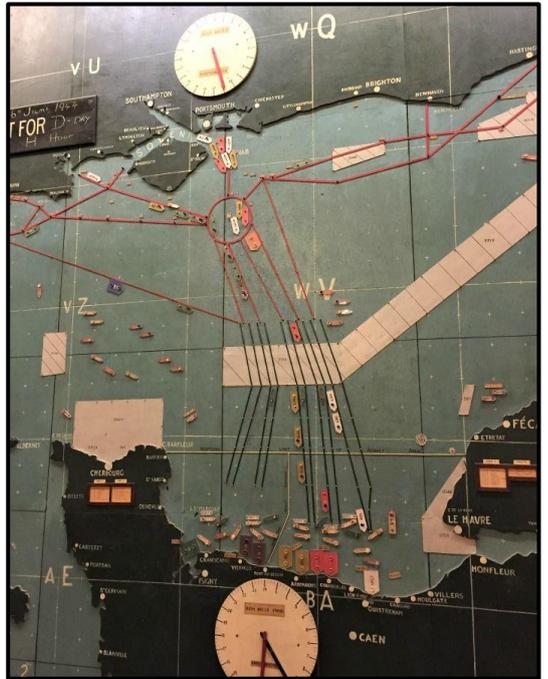
Website: red-lion-Southwick.co.uk

If you are not joining us for lunch, please advise us when you respond. Lunch is not included in the price of the visit to Southwick House. You pay the pub directly on the day.

As Southwick House is a Military establishment strict security is observed.

You must provide us with the following, when you respond: Surname and Forename, Nationality, Car Registration number plus colour and make and model of car.

Also, Southwick House requires that you bring a valid in date UK photo ID. Please arrive by 10:40 so we can be cleared for entry at 11:00.



Steve Gorban and Simon Winslow

Science and Technology Group Next Meeting – Visitors Welcome !

St James Hall – Thursday 3rd March at 2.00pm.

Our speaker will be Dr Vicki King, giving a talk on “A Career Scientific – From Laboratory to Whitehall”. We’re really looking forward to Vicki’s talk – in which we will hear about her fascinating career as a microbiologist, working on food microbiology, HIV, STDs, bloodborne viruses and healthcare associated infections. She finished her career as a senior advisor to Ministers and the Chief Medical Officer (of Professor Chris Whitty fame).

During this time, Vicky was involved in the development of evidence-based public health policy - which we now see applied to scientific advice to Ministers on the COVID Pandemic.



Last month at our February meeting we tried giving the opportunity for other Ems Valley members to attend, provided we have space. This was a resounding success and we were treated to an excellent talk on *DNA Fingerprinting* by Professor Peter Goldfarb. We had a record audience of over 70 people!

We have decided to continue with inviting "Visitors" (Ems Valley Members who are not registered with our group) to future talks, if there is a topic of interest.

If you'd like to join us for this month's topic, then please contact our group leader, Geoff Whalley, by clicking the messenger bird on the group webpage and you will be allocated a place if numbers allow, and this will be confirmed by email. First come first served! We now finish with a "social networking session" over tea and coffee.

If interested please come along. You don't have to be a science or technology expert. Our aim is to enjoy ourselves! Our talks are generally pitched at an informative and understandable level for the interested layman!

Geoff Whalley



Does anyone know what BIRD this is?

This monster unusual bird landed in a tree in Gloria Daykin's garden the day before Storm Eunice hit us! She took this photo and said it was approx. 55cms long. Can you help with identification? I asked Reg Newnham, leader of our Birds and Wildlife group and he wondered if it could be a GREATLEGPULLIS, not seen on these shores for many a year.....Ed



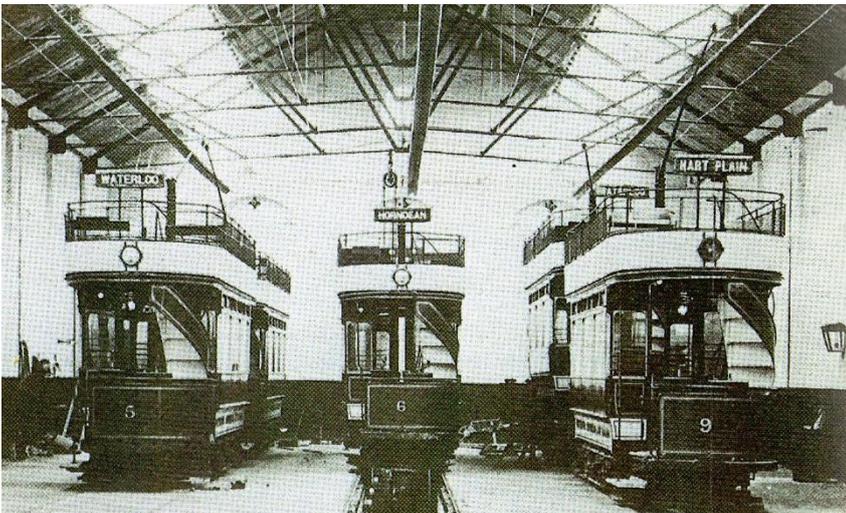
Mystery Bird SOLVED by RSPB

We are subsequently told that Gloria's nephew referred this mystery bird to the RSPB. They duly identified it with surprising results:



They say that it is the Trinidad Piping-Guan and that it is an arboreal cracid endemic to the island of Trinidad, where it is critically endangered. Formerly widespread (except perhaps along the more arid west coast) in forest from sea level to the highest peaks, it is now restricted to humid forest in an area of roughly 350 km² in the eastern half of the Northern Range. Nearly hunted to extinction, its population may be less than 100 and is unlikely to exceed 200 individuals. It occurs in small groups and spends most of its time in the forest canopy, feeding mostly on fruits. The Trinidad Piping-Guan is mostly blackish with a light blue, black-tipped bill, paler blue facial skin, white streaks in a shaggy crest, dark blue gular patch, mostly white upper wing coverts, and bright pinkish-red legs.

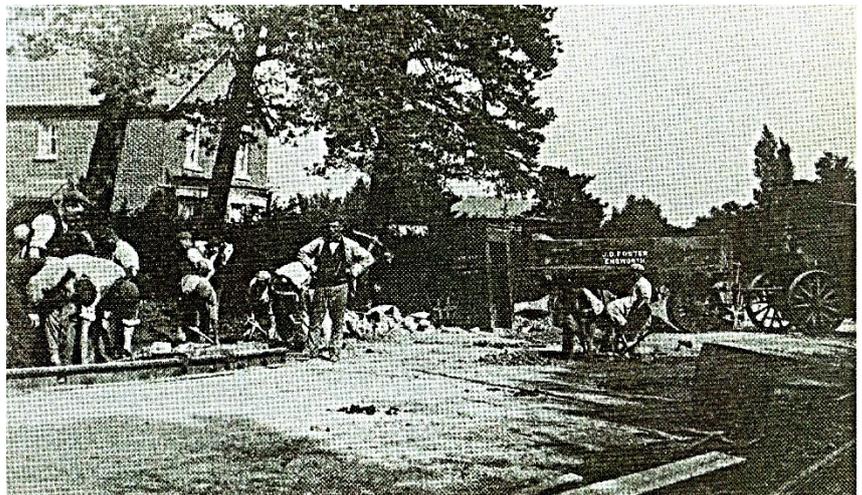
I personally think that Gloria must have smuggled this bird back from TRINIDAD in her suitcase and wonder if she now plans a rebreeding programme due to danger of extinction in the Caribbean. If you see her buying nut, seeds and tropical fruit at Tiers, offer to help. **Ed**



Nostalgia:

Are there any members who can remember our last tram? You need to be in your mid-nineties! The last tram ran in 1935 from Portsdown Hill Cosham to Horndean. It gave the townfolk of Portsmouth a chance to enjoy the country around Waterlooville, Cowplain and Horndean. An exceptional treat was to go to Horndean and walk through the woods to the celebrated Lily pond which was extremely picturesque and even had a small island in the middle that could be reached by rowing boat. I can

remember this pond well, even though I am quite young(!) The Horndean Light Railway, as it was called, was built in 1903 and the service lasted until 1935, when motor buses and motor cars drove it out of business. The service was extended so that you could travel all the way to Clarence Pier or South Parade Pier. The top picture shows the trams in their shed at Cowplain, and the pic below that shows the workmen inserting the rails into the road. In the background of this lower pic you can just see a steam lorry delivering sand or ballast.



With a magnifying glass I can read “J.D. Foster EMSWORTH” on its side. The tram route was at the side or right down the middle of the old A3, and some abutments can still be seen near the Q.A. Hospital. The fare from Cosham to Horndean was 8d which equates to 3p in today’s money. The Misses West used the service daily to go to work in Portsmouth. They lived in Kings Road, Cowplain which was not made up and therefore often like a muddy quagmire. They would wear gumboots to board the tram and hid them in a hedge (upside down) before they boarded the tram for work.

The trams were painted green and cream, and they were known locally as ‘the Green Cars’. After 1935, the tram shed was used by Foden Lorries as a service depot for the south. It subsequently was demolished and became Lidl, then changed to Waitrose!



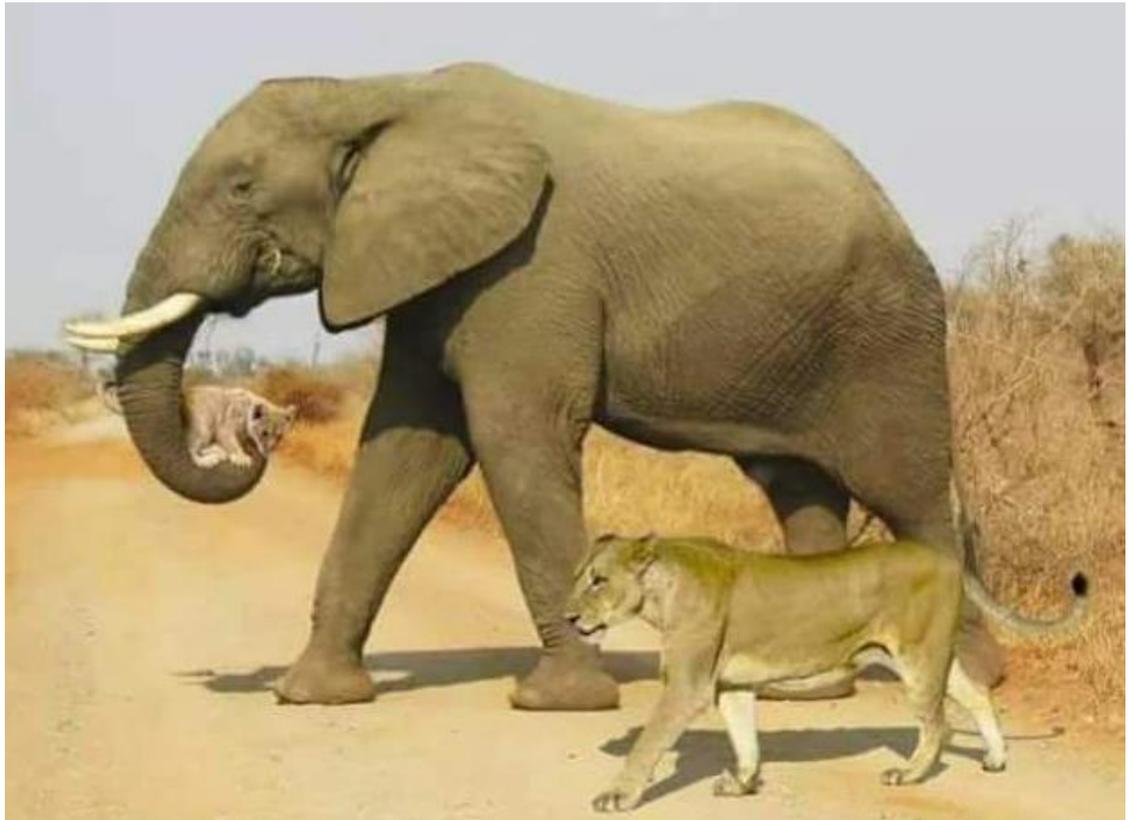
In the picture above, you see two trams passing in Waterloooville High Street, probably in the 1920s. This was one of the few passing places – it was a single track in the main.

I can just about remember the tracks set in the road before they were pulled up.

The journey from Cosham to Horndean took 15 minutes. The cars were powered by overhead electric lines and the power station for the line was situated in Purbrook. They ran every 20 minutes until 11.00am, and then every 10 minutes until 9.00pm. **Ed.**

NATURE IS TRULY AWESOME!

Photographed by a ranger in the Kruger National Park. This lion cub was wilting in the heat, so the elephant came out of the bush and carried him two miles to the water hole!



PIGS EAR OR FUZZY DUCK?

Yes, 14 adventurous beer samplers from Ems Valley's Day Trippers group had to decide which of these local beers



(plus six others) they would like to taste on Wednesday 23rd February! We were at the Gribble Inn, Oving and the organisers Steve Gorban and Simon Winslow arranged a brilliant tasting, tour and lunch at this very popular free house. Simon the landlord was a true jack of all trades. Not only did he do all the brewing (about 2000 pints a week) but he took his turn at being the Chef, and – on the



very busy lunchtime that we were there – turned his hand to waiting at the table. Needless to say, he was also the landlord and the boss! A super human individual who showed us just how hard someone in the hospitality trade has to work in these difficult Covid times! If you are interested in a visit, the food was excellent, and the atmospheric pub extremely welcoming!

I was there as a guest, but if this excursion was anything to go by, these “day trippers” certainly have a good time. Simon told us that he tries to use U.K. hops but on occasions, he will go as far as New Zealand to introduce a different flavour into some of his beer. The life of a brewer is not an easy one though – up at 4.00 in the morning - and having to curl himself up into a ball to enter the “Kettle” to complete the cleaning cycle at the end of each brew.

He explained very precisely how his beer is made but when asked about the difference between a craft beer and a traditional brew, he had to stop and think. Yes, his skills constitute a craft, but we got the impression that he considered himself a traditional brewer!

Ed.



While on the subject of Unusual Birds.....

Richard and Babs Fielder gave the Travellers Tales audience a most entertaining talk on “Middle-aged backpacking in Venezuela”. One of the aims of their exciting adventure was to see the famed Scarlet Ibis! These Ibises are extremely social birds, and they reside in big flocks both while they are nesting and outside of the breeding period. Staying in a group has its benefits. While large teams of birds are easier to identify, they likewise contain a lot more eyes to spot potential predators and also sound the alarm system. They use their honking noise in other social interactions. Men beep at women while trying to thrill them as a mate. And they will certainly additionally utilize beeping to greet one another. If Ibises are social while they are out foraging, they are more so when they are reproducing. Numerous groups of Ibises gather to create huge nesting swarms. Richard and



Babs related some uncomfortable long bus journeys to get to the remote areas of Venezuela to view the above and other amazing sights which we were able to view in the comparative comfort of "Mountford Three!" **Ed**

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

As for whether Emsworth centre is a town or a village: I would say it is a small town, but with a village ambience. (I wrote 'atmosphere' at first, but in the spirit of twinning with our French friends I changed it!).

Juliet Walker

Dear Editor

I rest my case! Richard Swaine



Dear Editor,

I remember, many years ago, my godmother, Ida Boxall, who was the postmistress at the time fiercely defending the notion that Emsworth was a village, and woe betide anyone who said it was a town! However... while I was on one of her excellent guided tours of Emsworth the late, and much missed, Linda Newell told participants that Emsworth had been granted a royal charter for a market in the 13th century. She went on to say that this meant that Emsworth had town status, since villages did not have markets. A quick look at a few websites via Google seems to support Linda's pronouncement.

Jill Stanley

American Politics

Last week, far - far right Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene (who always seems to be opening her mouth without thinking) accused Democratic leaders in the US of "gaspacho" tactics on Capitol Hill, apparently confusing the Nazi secret police with a cold Spanish soup.

Here is what she actually said: *"Not only do we have the DC jail which is the DC gulag, but now we have Nancy Pelosi's gaspacho police spying on members of Congress, spying on the legislative work that we do, spying on our staff and spying on American citizens"*

The social media soon revved into action...

'No soup for you, and you're gonna end up in the goulash.'

"The use of gaspacho tactics by Nancy Pelosi is chilling"

"With the Gaspacho Police, every crime is a cold case"

"The Gaspacho Police are also in bed with Anti-Phở"

"Do the gaspacho police adhere to sangria law?"

"Whatever you do, don't get her started on the Luftwaffle".

"Coming next: 'The Bouillabassi Stasi'"

"I've met some members of the gaspacho police. They are consommé professionals".

Marjorie Taylor Greene has let it be known that she considers herself a future presidential candidate.....



Who is this Pete
and
Why do we keep doing things
for his sake?

An old, blind Marine wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake.

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a double whiskey.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?'

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

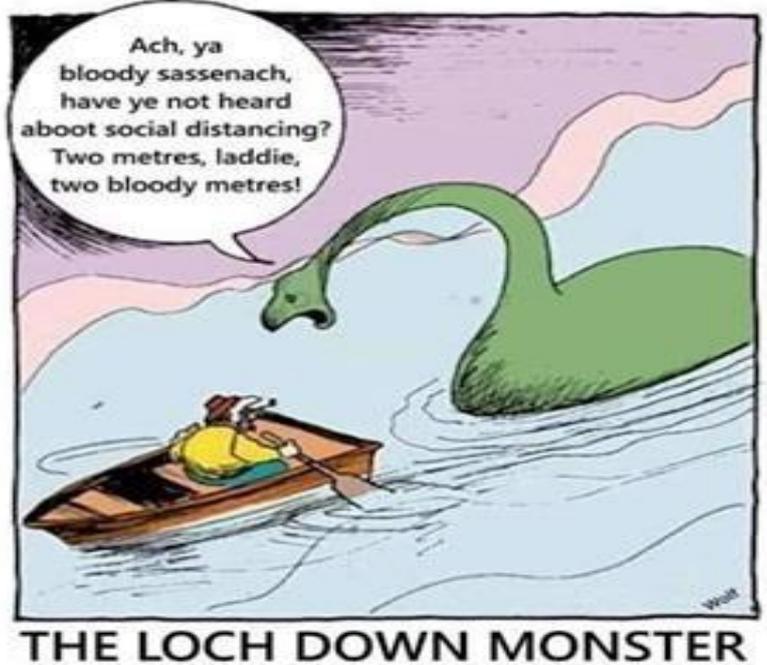
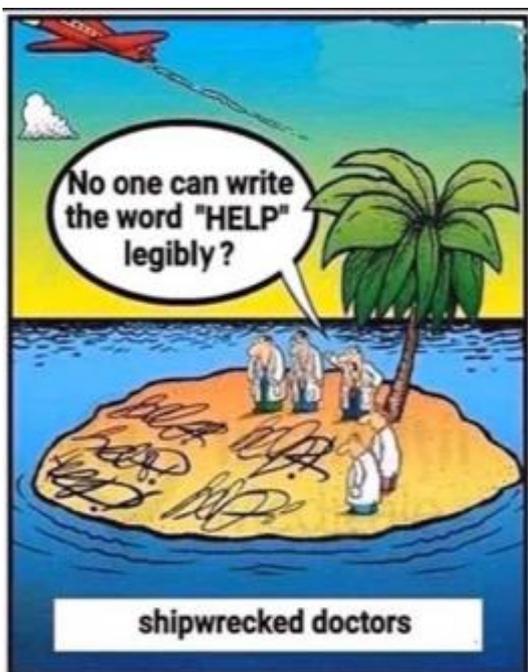
In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says,

'Before you tell that joke I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl who is an amateur boxer.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weightlifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?'

The blind Marine thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, 'No...not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times.'



There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think "THEY ARE GOING TO FIND ME NAKED."

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare.
But he chewed it a lot and now I can't tell if it is 2B or not 2B

**Being BRITISH is about driving a GERMAN car,
going to an IRISH theme pub,
to drink BELGIAN beer,
then going home with an INDIAN
takeaway,**



**sitting on a SWEDISH sofa,
turning on the JAPANESE T.V.
to watch AMERICAN T.V. shows
But all the time being very suspicious
of anythig FOREIGN....**

So many people
these days are far
too judgemental

I can tell just by
looking at them



When bartenders find new jobs after all
the bars close down



Ann Sims, our Groups Coordinator sent out a request to all groups to send up-to-date stories to the editor regarding “What you are doing?” at the beginning of the year. The response was good and we were able to share – through the medium of this newsletter – interesting news about your particular group. But we have fifty groups! Did you not reply? Sharing your up to date news helps to bring us all together as a vibrant and interesting organisation. If you are busy Mr, Mrs or Ms Group Leader, please ask one of your members to pen a line to the Editor.

In the course of a year, you can all think of one particular meeting that stood out and is newsworthy. Yes, we would all like to hear about it!

All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow@virginmedia.com