



Mid June 2022 NEWSLETTER

STREET PARTIES CELEBRATE THE PLATINUM JUBILEE!

What a wonderful four days of celebration we enjoyed to celebrate the Queen's seventy years on the throne. I expect that many of you enjoyed parties with neighbours and friends, I was lucky to be invited back to my old road, Park Crescent and even luckier that Juliet Walker came past taking photos for the Ems Magazine. She sent me pics of Ems Valley u3a members who attended that celebration:



I hope that this 'one street' party report will encourage all Ems Valley members to send in their pics of your street party!! After all, it was a very historic event and it would be great to have a greater pictorial record in our newsletter. Send to alanborrow@virginmedia.com



Our CRAFT group enjoyed preparing for the Jubilee weekend.

Angela Blunden writes: We had a great time preparing Jubilee wreaths, pompoms and bunting, we were only a small group this month due to member's family and friends and preparing for the celebration weekend, but we had a lot of fun. Liuba the Ukrainian Lady and her friend Rosie popped in with a lovely Crochet Blanket that Liuba had

made for the Lynus Charity. This is the Charity we are hoping to make quilts for, they give quilts to children's hospitals and hospices. Our Craft group decided that as a community project this would be an excellent idea for us to do so will be discussing it at our July meeting.





Have you had enough Coronation Chicken?

No, I can't get enough, what a lovely simple dish! A true British royal dish! The original Coronation chicken was invented by writer Constance Spry and the founder of the famous 'Le Cordon Bleu' cookery school Rosemary Hume, while preparing the food for the banquet of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The original dish is basically cooked chicken meat with a simple curried mayonnaise dressing, and it's quite odd that such a simple recipe made its way into Buckingham Palace.

Most versions nowadays include ingredients that have nothing to do with the original version, such as sultanas. The original recipe doesn't contain a single sultana, only dried apricots (that can be chopped or pureed), and the dressing includes a balanced mix of mayonnaise and whipped cream, plus, of course the curry powder.

Nigel says "Are you interested in joining BOARD GAMES"!

The Ems Valley Board Games group meets once a month on the second Monday afternoon to play board games in the Emsworth Community Centre. The group plays mainly some of the more modern board games, but also sometimes tries the classics. We play purely for fun, avoiding tournaments and ongoing leagues, to encourage the 'family fun' that these games are designed to promote. All the games we play can be picked up in an afternoon, and everyone in the group will be delighted to help you learn.

The group has been running now for about 9 months, and in that time we have tried our hand at Splendor, Kingdomino, Ticket To Ride and Alhambra of the more modern games, and Risk from the older classics. We try to offer something that other groups do not do, so we leave card games, Mah Jong, and Dominoes to others, and if there was particular interest in one particular game we would probably spawn a separate group for it.

So if you fancy either reliving your childhood, or trying something that you missed out on, come and give us a try. If you have a favourite that you are looking to find others to play with you, then bring it along and teach us to play it. The group will always be pleased to see you and delighted to teach you the game if you don't know it or learn from you if we don't know your game.

If you would like to try us then contact Nigel Miller at nigel_d_miller@yahoo.com for more details. See below, and if you don't recognize these games, the group can introduce you to them!



Yes, Ems Valley really does have five Wine Appreciation Groups NOW!

Wine Five held our first meeting on 1st June, we meet from 4.30 to 6.30pm, and 12 out of our 14 members managed to attend our first tasting. As with the other wine groups we taste six bottles each meeting. Being our first meeting, I was not sure how it would go but we seem already to be forming a friendly little group, with everyone encouraged to give their own opinions on each wine. By the time we got to number six we all seemed to be enjoying ourselves, and being a small group meant we had time at the end to finish our favourite bottles. We had a clear winner from our first tasting which was an Italian Primitivo from Tesco's. With its inky, bold blackberry flavour, it was considered good value at £6.50, even winning over two white wine drinkers.

The good news is we still have room for up to four more members to join our group, so if you know anyone who has an interest in wine, please pass on my contact details.



Mark Parker, mrj.parker@ntlworld.com

Letter to the Editor:

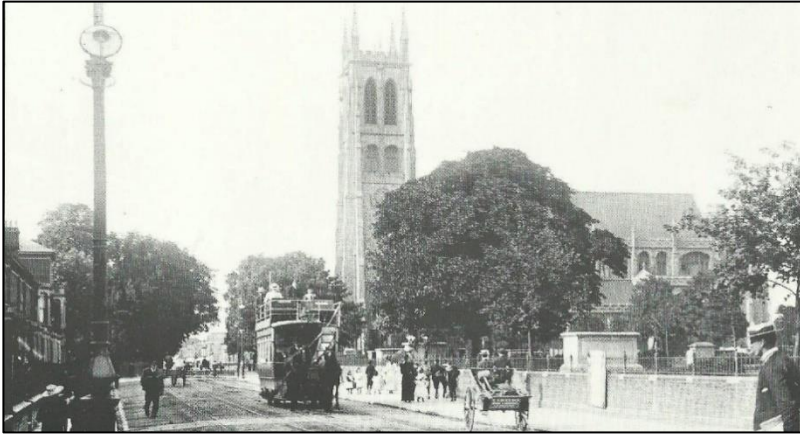
Dear Alan

I always enjoy reading your Newsletters and am very impressed by the amount of time and effort they must take you to prepare, well done!

However, I was disappointed by the article about Electric Vehicles published in the June edition. It was obviously written by people who are seriously opposed to the introduction of this technology and have a scant regard for facts. Whilst they have every right to express their opinion, whatever their motivation, a more balanced approach would have been welcome and counter arguments useful. This subject is too interesting and too important to allow ill-informed and misleading statements to be presented unchallenged!

Ed: I look forward to more comment!

Nostalgia time!

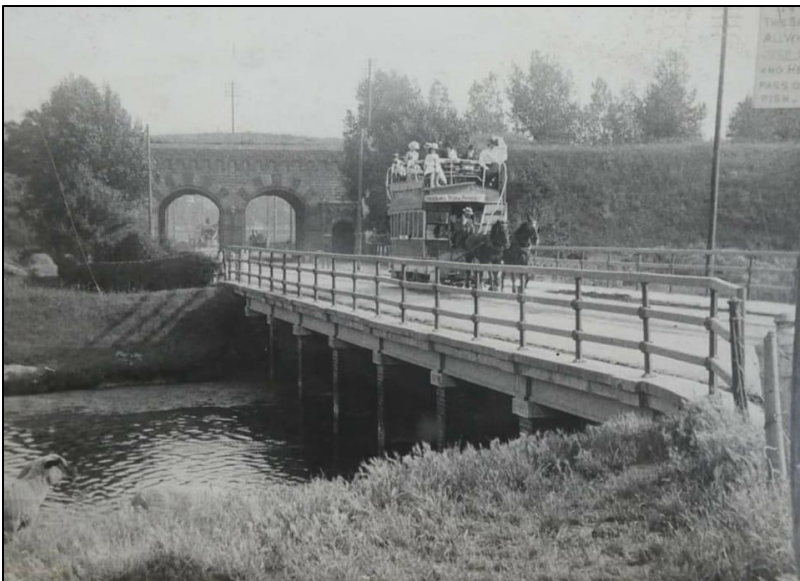


Where are we in the left hand picture? The church is the give away of course, Saint Marys church in Fratton Road. The Church was completed in 1889 and horse drawn trams were replaced by 1901 – 03, so we can assume that we are looking at a newly built church here. (this was the third church on this site, the first going back to Norman times.)

But we need to go right back to 1840 to witness the first horse-drawn buses running in Portsmouth. They were followed, in 1865 by

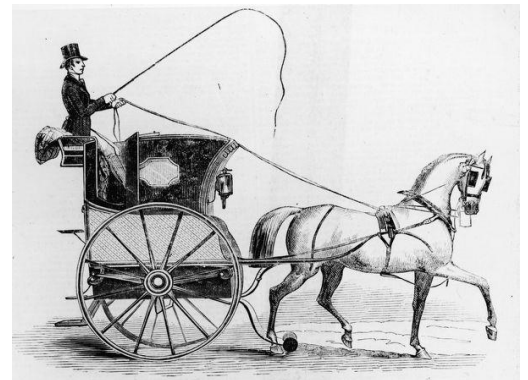
horse-drawn trams. In 1847 the railway reached Portsmouth.

The old horse-drawn trams were replaced by electric ones in 1901-03. But those electric trams were, in turn, replaced in 1935-36. The first motor buses in Portsmouth began running in 1919. On the left, you see the original



gateway on London Road at Hilsea. It was taken down to allow for road widening in 1919. Do we realise today how important horses were in those days? I began to appreciate this more when I discovered that my great, great Grandfather, John Bacon, was a horse dealer in Portsea. His stables and yard were in Queen Street, Old Portsmouth. He traded in very high class stock! We have found adverts where he offered "Four wheeled Chaise, Gig, hunters and top class saddle horses" for sale to the gentry of the day. His customers were often in London and we know he attended Horse fairs all over the country. (not sure if he sold to the Portsmouth tram authorities....)

When he died aged 58 in 1839, he was at the famous Bridgewater St Matthews fair which still runs today. See article at the end of the newsletter. From the Somerset County Gazette, 5th October 1839, we discovered the extent of the value of horses he purchased. This article read *"Coroner's Inquest - On Thursday last, an Inquest was held before J.E. Poole, Esq., Coroner of this borough, on the body of a Mr. John Bacon, a large and respectable horse dealer, of Portsea in Hants, who died on Tuesday of an apoplectic fit. It appears that the deceased came to this town for the purpose of being at the fair, and in calling at the house of a woman named Foy, who lives in Silver Street, to deliver a message from an uncle of Mrs. Foy's, the deceased whilst in the act of going to the back of the premises fell down and expired immediately. A post mortem examination was taken by Mr. I. Toogood on the body, and an effusion of blood was found on the base of the brain, which brought on apoplexy and occasioned immediate death. Verdict - 'natural death occasioned by apoplexy.' In the pockets of deceased were found between three and £400"*



£300 - £400 would be worth £38,000 today – imagine carrying that in your back pocket!

Editor

Bursledon Brickworks Museum

Local History, Bricks business and Daytrippers combined to make a joint visit to this museum which celebrates 125 years this month! Yes, the twenty seven of us who went were told that production started here in June 1897! It was



a very emotive visit because we arranged for all the steam driven machinery to be working and we can vouch that these rare machines were running as though they had just been installed yesterday. (Such was the pedigree of those engines, and we were told that Bursledon have two of the three remaining John Wood static engines in the world!)

It was a fascinating visit brought to life by our excellent guides. It was amazing that "Health and Safety" was not an issue in those days! Protective wear was a waistcoat, a flat cap and our guide

told us, a pocket watch! When we saw the old photo of the men "winning" the clay at the face, we could see what he meant! (See pic below)



During World War Two the works carried on producing and was operated by women! But the writing was on the wall for this brickworks when the M27 was built. It was not considered safe to continue to transport the clay in open containers overhead, across the motorway. The works closed in 1976. I felt quite nostalgic as my first house was built with

Bursledon Sandstorms, their main seller. This was the second or third time that Ems Valley have visited this Museum, and everyone agreed that we will probably go again! The pictures below on the next page (left to right clockwise), our guide thrusting a wooden stave into the Trolley to act as a brake, the massive rollers to crush the clay, a lovely watercolour of a boat being loaded with their bricks on the adjacent river Hamble and the static steam engine which managed to run several large pieces of machinery at once! Once again, Health and Safety allowed us close contact – don't spill the beans! (or the bricks....)

The brickworks was extremely innovative when it commenced. They used a large brick making machine known as a stiff clay extruder. The manufacturers claimed it was capable of making 40,000 bricks a day. This machine was run by the steam engine mentioned above. Once the bricks were made, they were dried in large drying sheds. These were heated via underfloor pipes and the bricks took a set time to dry. The design of the drying sheds was patented by the company. When they had dried sufficiently, the bricks were then taken down to the kiln for baking. The kiln was a Staffordshire type, continuous kiln (based on a Hoffman Kiln) with twelve chambers. Each chamber could hold up to 26,000 bricks at a time. The kiln was always burning with the chambers going from cold to over 1,000°C every 15 days or so. To give you some idea, a small house would need 10,000 bricks to build.



Alan Borrow

Monthly meeting Thursday 23rd June at the Baptist Church

Don't forget the monthly meeting! The Guest Speaker will talk about the Hampshire and IOW air Ambulance and in the second half of the meeting there will be surprise revelations about a most forward looking lady of the 18th century.

Havant Lions succeed with Health Tests in The Baptist Church!

You may remember this newsletter bringing to your attention men's PSA Blood Tests at the Baptist Church on 23rd April this year. The event was brought to the attention of the editor by our member Gill Skidmore, and we were one of many who gave publicity to this important health check! By the way, Gill has now joined Havant Lions – she is a Lion not a Lioness! I am also very grateful to her for being our "Cheese monitor" at Wine Appreciation One! But the more important news is that this event was immensely successful and 320 males took advantage of the testing offer. As you probably know, these tests give early warning of any possible problems so that they can be quickly addressed. The blood tests were carried out by PCaSO, our local Prostate Cancer Support Organisation and 289 of those tested were 'Green', 6 were 'Amber' and 25 were 'Red.' Lions hope to arrange further similar events for this most worthwhile cause in the future.

The 'Saint Matthews' Fair, Bridgewater, Somerset

This giant fair, which survives even to today, dates back to 1249! Originally it was held in the centre of the town but by 1404 it had grown so large as to be moved to St Matthew's Field and West Street. Once held on September 21st, it now commences on the last Wednesday in September lasting for four days. It was only a one day fair until 1857 when a local act was passed to make it three days. Then in 1919, the weather was so disastrous that a fourth day was granted to help the traders, and it has remained as four days ever since. Today it is more significant as a funfair but it once served as a hiring fair at which large numbers of sheep, horses and ponies were sold, many of these having been rounded up from the Quantock Hills. In 1881 for instance, there were 700 horses and ponies on sale. Historically the fair had a great social significance. Seldom during the farming year would farm labourers have the



opportunity to leave their place of employment or to go beyond the bounds of the village in which they lived. Well-to-do families would rent a house in the town for a week. Working families could go to the fair, hire themselves out individually, and end up scattered

Picture on left is of the Wickham horse Fair which has been in existence as long as the Bridgewater Fair.

around the county, not seeing each other until the next Bridgewater fair. Men and women would line themselves up for sale, each carrying the tools of their trade; the shepherd with his crook, the stockman with his whip, the milkmaid

with her stool. During the nineteenth century, the Thursday of the fair became known as "Servant's Day" since this was the day when shop workers would take up new employment and the Friday night was for factory and domestic workers.

Apart from the social aspect, trade was vitally important. Imagine not leaving your village to go shopping other than that once a year trip to the fair. The pots and pans, rolls of cloth, boots and shoes, hats, coats, tools and all the other items, except the day-to-day food, could be bought at the fair. Perhaps it is no wonder that at one year's fair there was reported to be more than 150 stalls selling just boots and shoes.

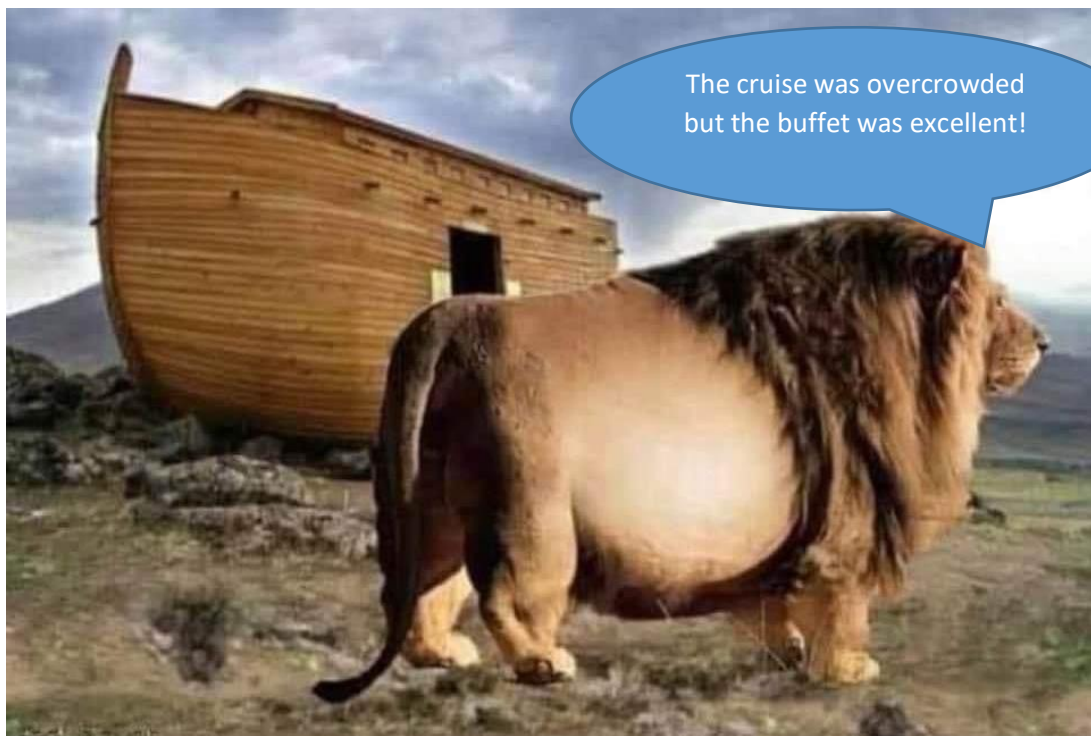
The fun side of the fair was limited to travelling entertainers, there being no fairground rides as we know them today. Amongst the many forms of entertainment, which have long since been extinct, were performing bears and wrestling. Even as late as 1893 there was a strong woman act where the lady concerned would lift a horse and in the



adjoining sparring booth, visitors were invited to wrestle with a bear. In latter years, the local lad wrestlers were replaced with professional wrestlers and boxers who performed in the booths. Freddie Mills and the Turpin brothers, whose names were renowned worldwide, performed there. Freddie Mills appeared at the fair from 1937 to 1939 and by 1948 had become the world Light Heavyweight champion!

Left: the modern Fair at Bridgewater

The “AAAHHHH” factor:



The Story of the Haircut

Blessed are those that can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked how much he owed, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week' The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a police constable comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a politician came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The politician was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen politicians lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

As Ronald Reagan once said: "Both politicians and diapers need to be changed often and for the same reason."

All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

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