



AUGUST 2022

IN AN ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN.....

“GARDENS” group report: Our July visit took us to West Stoke, West Sussex at the start of a heatwave. The weather, however, didn’t detract from the stunning garden at 4 Hillside Cottages (an NGS garden). There was an audible gasp of delight from the group as we entered the garden.

The garden has been owned by Heather and Chris Lock since 1996. They turned a narrow straight piece of land (seen on the left below) into a sumptuous garden with a profusion of roses, clematis, fuchsias and dahlias. Heather said she always grows Group 3 clematis, they are ‘fool proof’ when it comes to pruning as they flower on growth made during the season.

The planting scheme has been cleverly thought through, with deep reds, purples and pinks together running into oranges of different shades. The garden is landscaped with curved beds with an arch and steps giving the impression of a bigger space. At the end of the garden, hidden behind a fence, there is even a small, healthy vegetable patch.

There were containers planted with clematis, fuchsias and busy lizzies using a design mentioned on Gardeners World as pillar, filler, spiller planting. This little rhyme is also known as thriller, pillar, spiller and helps creates professional looking container planting.

Thriller: bold focal point using tall plants such as grasses, cannas, and cosmos. Filler: mid-sized, Begonias, Geraniums, Gazanias.

Spiller: plants that cascade and tumble like Bacopa, Ivy and Nasturtiums.



See more pics of this garden below:



Ronnie Tyler

Wine Appreciation Group One Barbecue beats the HEAT WARNING!

For six days the authorities were constantly warning us of a Heat Wave Alarm that would fry us to pieces! “Do not – under any circumstances - venture into the open in the 40 degree heat. You will be marmalised!” So, what should we do when that particular Tuesday had been planned for our Annual Wine tasting barbecue at the old Hospital Gardens for weeks and weeks?

Of course we discussed the crisis. Of course we looked at alternatives. But we decided to carry on and then enjoyed one of the best barbecues we have ever had! What happened? Well the 40 degrees turned into 23 degrees and a rain shower gave us all an amazing respite! Everyone enjoyed this shower and some were seen holding out their arms out as they peered up to heaven in thankful poses....

What else contributed to the success of the evening? Another crisis! The Brick built barbecue was out of action due to works being done to the adjacent wall. A series of small portable barbecues, loaned to us by the kind Garden authorities, plus another portable one brought along by Geoff Wiggins meant that all the Starrs delicious fare was well cooked, but because of the smaller appliances – it took time! Not to worry, members were asked to sample the different meats a course at a time! This changed the normal format of being seated with the same participants for the whole evening. Everyone spent the evening in transit to the barbecues, eating course by course. And everyone

talked and discussed wine with everyone! It made for a great evening, a quite memorable one in fact – we shall remember the 2022 wine tasting barbecue! Some pictures below attempt to illustrate the spirit of the evening! My thanks to Gill Skidmore and Dbee Robinson for sending them. The Heat Wave emergency had passed! The wines were eagerly tasted and the barbecued lamb, pork and chicken much appreciated! Thank you to the Chefs!



Alan Borrow

Book Group Two go on their Summer Outing!



On 5 July Book group 2 had their annual summer outing, this time to Chawton House in north Hampshire.

The literary connection is that Jane Austen's brother, Frank (Austen) Knight, lived in the Grade 2 * listed Elizabethan Manor House. Despite the fact that Jane Austen has not featured in our list so far this year didn't hold us back, as we wanted somewhere accessible, with a garden and facilities for lunch. Chawton House fitted the bill, a 40 minute drive, free parking nearby, and a fascinating place to visit. The house is open for self guided visits, with extras on display such as scenes from Mary Norton's *The Borrowers*, which was filmed there, and a room full of paintings and anecdotes of female sporting prowess, unexpected at the time.

The garden has been extensively restored following Edward Knight's original planting plans, and was beautiful, with its medicinal gardens, walled garden, orchard, and rolling lawns. The cafe is sited in the stable courtyard,



out, and Glynis Blaber looks comfortable here!

and served a very pleasant sandwich lunch. The nearby church is also open for visitors, with the tombs of Jane's mother and sister Cassandra in the graveyard, and a very attractive statue of Jane herself.

Additionally Chawton House hold the Research Centre for the Study of Early Women's Writing, and has an amazing library, also available for an accompanied and very informative visit.

Jane Austen lived 400 metre away from Chawton House, in a much smaller cottage style property, which now house the Jane Austen museum. She was a frequent visitor to Chawton House, and it is mentioned in several of her books.

Our group outing was very enjoyable, and Chawton is to be recommended for a local day

Lesley Harris

NEWS FROM THE DAYTRIPPERS GROUP!

We hope your Summer is going well!

We have on offer two great outings to end the Summer and then to begin the Autumn.

On 13 September we hope we have enough interest to visit Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.



We need a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 people to make it happen.

The outboard ferry leaves at 10:00 and the return ferry is at 16:20 arriving in Portsmouth at 17:05.

The plan is to travel by car groups of 4 to the Ferry at Portsmouth. The cost per car is £100.00 and admission to the House and Garden is

£19.00. The complication is that the Car must be booked and paid in advance. If you wish to join us please reply to me by Monday 15 August. (psasibs@gmail.com) We are booked for the house, but can cancel before hand.

Osborne Hopuse is stunning and full of original furniture and works of art purchased by Queen Victoria. It has the intimate feel of a family holiday home, albeit rather large and grand. The grounds and formal gardens are beautiful with the most stunning views of the Solent. You can see why Victoria chose this site!

If you have not had the pleasure of visiting our local Wine Estate, Ashling Park, we have it all lined up for



you to enjoy. The date of our visit, to tour the vineyard and then enjoy a Wine Tasting Lunch, is Thursday 6 October. We begin at 11:30. The owner, Gail Gardener will lead the tour and join us for the Tasting meal , along with Kyle Allen, the Hospitality Manger.

This is a wonderful way to spend the afternoon. Cost per person is £40.00. Steve Gorban, psasibs@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you, Pam, Simon and Steve at Daytrippers.

Nostalgia:

Do you recognise this view of the Havant Road Bedhampton – any idea of the year?



I assume that the signpost in the background, pointing to the right is Hulbert Road. The shops on the right are there today!

Recently I was at my local supermarket buying a large bag of dog food for my loyal pet and was in the checkout line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. What did she think I had, an elephant? Since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was just commencing 'The Ems Dog Food Diet' again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, and that I'd lost 20 kilograms before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes in both arms. But I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pockets with Pedigree Chum pellets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I just stepped off a kerb and the car hit me.

Member Bill Jones writes:

Hello Alan,

Many people know the word puzzle when they are asked for an intelligible sentence with five "ands" in a row. It concerns a pub signwriter for the Pig & Whistle where the landlord is not happy with the sign. "You have left too much space between "pig" and "and" and "and" and "whistle".

An extension on the same theme: come up with an intelligible sequence of words using 13 "hads" in a row! Solution: an English teacher was marking essays by John and Peter.

John, where Peter had had "had had", had had "had had had". "Had had" had had the teacher's approval. OK so it's a bit of a niche one (taken from one of those compendium style books popular during WW2)!

Bill Jones

"... what more could anyone want!"

On one of the hottest nights ever recorded in Britain, the Theatre Group ventured out to The Festival Theatre to see "Crazy For You". Oh my, how well they were rewarded!



Someone to Watch Over Me and more of that ilk.

This is a great show of enormous energy and verve. The plot is irrelevant, which is lucky because it is slight, sometimes utterly implausible and even bizarre. Basically it tells the familiar story of a small town struggling to save its theatre. But it is merely a vehicle for a dazzling song and dance show. It is packed with classic Gerswin numbers, songs and melodies one had forgotten one ever knew. Songs like *I Got Rhythm*,

The undoubted star of the show is Charlie Stemp who played Arthur Kipps in *Half a Sixpence* at Chichester a few seasons ago. The choreography showcases his talent superbly. He has flying feet and an enviable spatial awareness and balance that allows him to tap dance even on the seat of a small chair. The trouble with having such an obvious star is that one tends not to notice so much the tremendous gifts of the other players. In this case Carly Anderson who plays the female lead has a lovely voice and the comic timing and musicality of the rest of the cast is admirable.

The incidental action adds dramatically to the overall enjoyment. The mock gun fights from the cowboy chorus are particularly athletic and amusing. People who don't like musicals would say this was fluff. Well, it is very high quality fluff and many of us can only cope with being deep and meaningful for a limited amount of time. For me Crazy For You was an absolute joy!

Val Ottewell

Ed: and thanks for the efficient Chichester Theatre air conditioning – absolutely amazing! Our thanks to Ellie Turnbull for the tickets and I'm off to see the show again!

See Portsmouth by Bicycle!

Our Group disembarked train at Cosham for a safe and interesting ride to Portsmouth via the Hilsea Flood Barrier which was a five year project and Les informed me, after chatting to a worker, that it was subject to some cracking which needed the installation of flexible joints.

So via the Hilsea Lido to Mountbatten Centre and then on to join the aptly named "Pilgrims Way" to the Rudmore Roundabout underpass, then skirting around the dockyard wall into the Ferry Port and Queen Street which took us along a cycle lane through Queens Street to the bus station area. Neil then led us through Gunwharf to bring us out at "Viviers" and the interesting fishing zone opposite the Bridge Inn.

We were very soon at the "The Still and West" but not allowed in until 12.00 precisely! However the wait was worth it as we had reserved the best room in the house which saw us seated for a most pleasant lunchtime to admire the I O W Ferries and a returning Brittany Ferry. Hazel and Garry joined us for lunch. Sandie did her best to do so, but got caught in a shower of rain and headed back to the bus station rather

damp. The rest of the day was 'dry'.

It should be noted that, from our elevated position, we could see that both RN carriers were 'snuggly' alongside and no RN movements were observed! (Ah, those were the days!)

The ride back was fairly straightforward until our leader took us off the flood barrier to enjoy the scenery



at the back of Hilsea, still no real harm done! A perfect setting and background that signals the end of "Pilgrims Way"! See pic below.



It was a really super day out and as such even gave us time to 'kill' 25 minutes with "I Spy" as we waited at Cosham station for the train East. I think Neil and Caroline beat Alan and I convincingly. The things you do when you have time on your hands! Next gathering Monday August 15, Neil is arranging.

Richard Swaine

A Dam(n) problem

Tony Carter forwards this issue from Ryan in Lycoming County – Ryan received this warning from the local authorities:

SUBJECT: DEQb

File No.97-59-0023; T11N; R10W, Sec 20; Lycoming County

Dear Mr. DeVries:

It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent unauthorized activity on the above referenced parcel of property. You have been certified as the legal landowner and/or contractor who did the following unauthorized activity: Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet stream of Spring Pond.

A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity. A review of the Department's files shows that no permits have been issued. Therefore, the Department has determined that this activity is in violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.30101 to 324.30113 of the Pennsylvania Compiled Laws, annotated.

The Department has been informed that one or both of the dams partially failed during a recent rain event, causing debris and flooding at downstream locations.. We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location, and to restore the stream to a free-flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel. All restoration work shall be completed earliest possible. Please notify this office when the restoration has been completed so that a follow-up site inspection may be scheduled by our staff. Failure to comply with this request or any further unauthorized activity on the site may result in this case being referred for elevated enforcement action. We anticipate and would appreciate your full cooperation in this matter. Please feel free to contact me at this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David L. Price

District Representative and Water Management Division.

Below is the actual response sent back by Ryan:

Re: DEQ File

No.. 97-59-0023; T11N; R10W, Sec. 20; Lycoming County

Dear Mr. Price

Your certified letter has been handed to me. I am the legal landowner but not the Contractor at 2088 Dagget Lane , Trout Run, Pennsylvania.

A couple of beavers are in the (State unauthorized) process of constructing and maintaining two wood 'debris' dams across the outlet stream of my Spring Pond. While I did not pay for, authorize, nor supervise their dam project, I think they would be highly offended that you call their skilful use of nature's building materials 'debris.'

I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination and/or their dam work ethic.

These are the beavers/contractors you are seeking. As to your request, I do not think the beavers are aware that they must first fill out a dam permit prior to the start of this type of dam activity.

My first dam question to you is:

(1) Are you trying to discriminate against my Spring Pond Beavers, or

(2) do you require all beavers throughout this State to conform to said dam request?

If you are not discriminating against these particular beavers, through the Freedom of Information Act, I request completed copies of all those other applicable beaver dam permits that have been issued. (Perhaps we will see if there really is a dam violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.30101 to 324.30113 of the Pennsylvania Compiled Laws, annotated.)

I have several dam concerns. My first dam concern is, aren't the beavers entitled to legal representation? The Spring Pond Beavers are financially destitute and are unable to pay for said representation -- so the State will have to provide them with a dam lawyer.

The Department's dam concern that either one or both of the dams failed during a recent rain event, causing flooding, is proof that this is a natural occurrence, which the Department is required to protect. In other words, we should leave the Spring Pond Beavers alone rather than harassing them and calling them dam names.

If you want the dammed stream 'restored' to a dam free-flow condition please contact the beavers -- but if you are going to arrest them, they obviously did not pay any attention to your dam letter, they being unable to read English. In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond Beavers have a right to build their unauthorized dams as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and water flows downstream. They have more dam rights than I do to live and enjoy Spring Pond. If the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection lives up to its name, it should protect the natural resources (Beavers) and the environment (Beavers' Dams).

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your attention to a real environmental quality, health problem in the area. It is the bears! Bears are actually defecating in our woods. I definitely believe you should be persecuting the defecating bears and leave the beavers alone. If you are going to investigate the beaver dam, watch your dam step! The bears are not careful where they dump!

Being unable to comply with your dam request, and being unable to contact you on your dam answering machine, I am sending this response to your dam office.

THANK YOU,

RYAN DEVRIES & THE DAM BEAVERS

The Salvation Army realized that it had never received a donation from the city's most successful lawyer. So a volunteer paid the lawyer a visit in his lavish office. The volunteer opened the meeting by saying, 'Our research shows that even though your annual income is over two million pounds, you don't give a penny to charity.

Wouldn't you like to give something back to your community? The lawyer thinks for a minute and says, 'First, did your research also show you that my mother is dying after a long painful illness, and she has huge medical bills that are far beyond her ability to pay?'

Embarrassed, the rep mumbles, 'Uh... No, I didn't know that.'

'Secondly,' says the lawyer, 'did it show that my brother, a disabled Veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair and is unable to support his wife and six children?'

The stricken rep begins to stammer an apology, but is cut off again.

'Thirdly, did your research also show you that my sister's husband died in a dreadful accident, leaving her penniless with a mortgage and three children, one of whom is disabled and another that has learning disabilities requiring an array of private tutors?'

The humiliated rep, completely beaten, says, 'I'm so sorry. I had no idea.'

And the lawyer says, 'So, if I didn't give any money to them, what makes you think I'd give any to you.'

Is it really necessary for the first square of toilet paper to be glued down?

I swear the me that orders groceries & the me that actually has to cook the meals are 2 entirely different people.

Some call it multi-tasking, I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place

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I tried the Japanese method of decluttering where you hold every object that you own and if it does not bring you joy, you throw it away. So far I have thrown out all of the vegetables, my bra, the electric bill, the scale, a mirror and my treadmill.

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation...50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

What do we learn from cows, buffalos and elephants??

It's impossible to reduce weight by eating green grass and salads and walking.

I just ordered a life alert bracelet so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.

I don't understand why people have to "get ready" for bed. I'm always ready for bed.

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

I know that we never enter the field of politics in u3a but I could not help myself with this one:

MOCKING Grant Shapps's leadership campaign, snobbish ex-Tory MP Sir Nicholas Soames – a Churchill grandson – says Transport Secretary Shapps 'has more front than Brighton Beach and the patter of a used car salesman'. Worse barbs have been hurled at Sir Nicholas. 'Making love with him is like having a wardrobe fall on you with the key sticking out,' one lady friend is alleged to have sighed.

More British Inventive Business names! (With thanks to Chris Gibbs and Tony Carter)





There will not be a 'Mid August' edition of this newsletter because a lot of our groups do not meet in August.

But, on August 16, celebrate National Tell A Joke Day by doing just that — telling a joke.

Jokes are believed to have been a part of history since 1900 B.C. Many suggest that the joke was created by the Greek hero Palamedes, who outsmarted Odysseus during the Trojan War. Juliet Walker may have more info on that suggestion – I know there is some dispute on this claim, and maybe - the exact origin of jokes is still unknown.

Tell A Joke Day is a great day to lighten up and laugh it up! Not only is laughter great for the soul, it is also beneficial for our health. When times get hard, a good joke will save the day! Laughter is also contagious, and the world can always use more smiles and laughter.

If one won't come easily – fall back on:

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Why the long face?"
(OK, don't risk it.....)

The structure of any joke isn't set in stone. Initially, jokes were more like funny stories or accounts, either written or verbal. The comical situation would usually end with a punchline. They need to be short and not dragged out, otherwise, the joke will be lost halfway through – always remember the shaggy dog.....

All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow@virginmedia.com