



**DECEMBER  
NEWSLETTER**

## **UPDATE ON National U3A from your Chairman**

If you have been reading your monthly magazine, and particularly the current copy, you will have seen the 'furore' (my word, not theirs!) that developed over and during the AGM this year. As a result a series of meetings over zoom is taking place around the UK to explain the issues (finally!) and listen to the members. I attended one of these (3 hours, that required 3 coffees and cake) last week, and I will attempt to give you a summary because we do need to understand where all this is coming from., and possibly leading to.

Interestingly, as you probably know, Eric Midwinter helped to set up our national u3a some 40 years ago, and he says if he was setting it up today, it would not be organised in the same way or with the same structure.....

Why is change needed?

Governance (and by this we mean the Charities' Commission requirements) is now more complex, and over the years, our members' expectations have changed.

Not easy to select volunteer u3a members to serve when different skills are required - on the one part because of the governance required in being a Charity , and on the other, dealing with day to day u3a matters.

There has been too little focus recently on 'real' u3a matters (the things that concern you and me) which has meant that our Regional reps are currently pulled in different ways.

Key ideas for the future

A new "u3a Council" which would be the principal and effective focal point for the voice of the membership.

A new smaller "u3a Board" (different to Council) focused on compliance and governance (legal, financial and Charity commission compliance; creating and monitoring strategy).

A new Board election process – to ensure appointees with correct core skills.

(Obviously new protocols and working arrangements would be needed to ensure clarity of roles between the u3a Board and the u3a Council and full accountability)

Summary

If introduced...

U3a-related matters would have constant attention in a u3a Council – all initiatives would have a u3a impact assessment;

A small u3a Board with elected, skilled input, would reassure members that compliance requirements are being met including sound financial plans being in place;

A representative u3a Council would reduce workload for regional reps and introduce clarity;

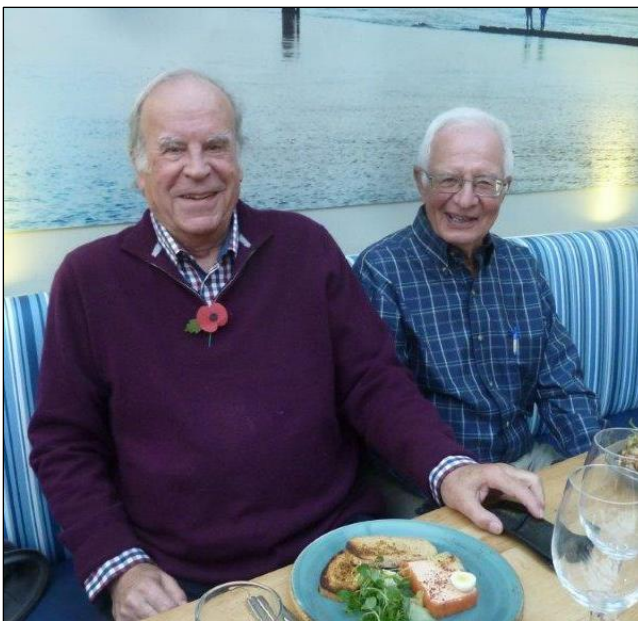
More u3a members will be expected to contribute, but no increase in staffing levels.

The meeting was assured that such alterations would not lead to increased cost to members.

**Anne Powell**

## DAYTRIPPERS UP THE SPINNAKER!

The 'Day-Trippers' group had a thoroughly enjoyable outing on Friday 4th November. The Seniors Group discount for 15 or more was great value for money!!



*Pic below left: Simon and Steve, our organisers.*

We had been watching the weather with some trepidation, as prior to the 4th we had had a succession of gale force winds and heavy rain. Well, the Gods smiled on us weather-wise and Friday was a beautiful autumnal day: blue sky (some puffy cloud) and a fresh, light wind. (Followed the next days by 'standard

winter weather issue': more wind and rain)! We met at the entrance to the Spinnaker Tower just before 10.00. As we were early we popped into a coffee shop opposite, which gave us the chance to meet each other. As a group we watched a brief introductory video. We all took the lift to the first viewing area which gives an 'all round' view with information boards and 'talking telescopes' if you wanted more information. Most of us braved the second viewing level. There is also a 'coffee shop' level. After viewing we went our separate ways to explore the Quays, until re-convening at the entrance to the boat 'Guided Harbour Tour' at 12.00. A few brave souls went up to the open top deck, but hard seats and a chilly wind sent them downstairs into the enclosed deck. The boat had very few passengers and we had an informative commentary as we travelled around the Harbour.

Some of our group had to leave but the rest of us took a short walk to the 'Abarbistro Restaurant', booked for 1pm, just outside Gun Wharf Quays. Ten of us had lunch – it worked out well as four men sat at one table and six ladies at another close by. The food was very good. It was another opportunity to learn about each other and confirmed my belief that 'The things we do



together, bond us.' We did not leave until almost 4:00pm. I think the U3A is a wonderful social vehicle giving us 'something good to remember and something good to look forward to.'

**Katie Wiggins**

## **An interview with Geoff Wiggins.....**

***Hello Geoff, you have now joined the committee so I think that it's high time members know a little more about you! When did you join Ems Valley U3A?***

I can't remember exactly but probably 2011.

***How did you originally find out about us?***



Funnily enough, you and Diana were our introduction to the U3A. We had heard about the Emsworth St Aubin Twinning somehow or other and we went along to a get together one evening, not knowing anybody of course and you both said "right, you are on our table". We then had a good chat during the evening and you told us about the U3A, thus we promptly joined.

***How has membership of our U3A affected your life?***

We are naturally gregarious people and obviously wanted to expand our social circle here. We did know a couple of people in

Emsworth, oddly both in our road, although neither in the U3A. Joining Ems Valley has given us a marvellous introduction to many people whom we are now glad to call our friends. We don't have many blank days on the calendar!

***Did you come to Emsworth when you retired? Can you tell us a little about your life elsewhere?***

I bought our house the year before I retired, rented it out for that year and then moved here in May 2010 and spent nearly a year rebuilding, double glazing, rewiring, decorating and so on.

When thinking about where to live after retirement, I didn't have any firm idea as long as we were near the sea. Katie's mother used to live in Havant and she knew the area. Other members of her family are nearby and my family likewise not too far away, so Emsworth it was. I was born in St Stephen's hospital in Chelsea, now the Kensington and Westminster hospital (incidentally where my parents met) and where my father was a Consultant Anaesthetist. I spent my childhood at Roehampton, SW London. I went to school at Willington and later Wellington. My first house was in Wimbledon, next Addlestone, then Ditchling and finally here.

***Tell us about your working career?***

I started at the BBC in Chiswick in 1969 thanks to my Granny, who spotted an advert in the Evening News or Standard, I can't remember which, asking for wiremen. Thus started my career in broadcasting. I went to Thames TV after ten years, initially at Teddington (known as the fun factory) and then the Studios at Euston. Ten years after this I joined ITN in 1990. I feel very lucky to have had such a fulfilling working life and without doubt being at ITN was the best part.

***I remember well the day you married Katie, how long had you known each other?***

I met Katie in 2007 at the Wick Theatre, Southwick, near Shoreham in Sussex. She was doing front of house one evening and we had a chat at the interval and that, as they say, was that! We went on our first holiday run by European Vacations called a Taste of Italy in 2008. Totally wonderful.

***Tell us about your early days on committee, and what will be your “fields or responsibilities”?***

Early days for this, I've only been to two meetings, but started off with a black mark as I had written down the wrong start time and was half an hour late for the first one! Fortunately, nobody seemed to mind! I have been asked to oversee Special Projects. I have yet to find out what this means.....

***What interest groups are you a member of now?***

Wine appreciation One, Brick, STEM, Travellers' Tales, Family History, Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome and an



unofficial Beer appreciation group! I was in Mahjong but Covid put the kibosh on that and I've rather forgotten about it.

***Wine Appreciation, I know, is one of your interests - you and Kate have accompanied us on some of our wine trips abroad. What is your favourite type of wine at the moment?***

Easy, Red. I do have a preference for French reds, however South American reds are very much to the fore these days and a good Malbec is hard to beat.

***What do you do to relax when***

***U3A related activities are put to bed***

I read copiously, gardening, out on the boat when the weather and tides are right. I am a Radio Amateur, some people, mainly the Americans call us Hams, a term I really don't like as to me it implies incompetence, which we certainly are not. I am Chairman of the Fort Purbrook Amateur Radio Club and have been for some years and no doubt will be until I join the Radio Club in the sky!

***Looking back, how do you view the past lockdowns and our efforts in U3A to keep going.***

Zoom proved an absolute Godsend and enabled nearly all of us to keep in touch and keep the groups going. We joined in some zooms from Gran Canaria where, as some of you know, we were trapped for months since there weren't any flights home. What a place to be cast away!

***We always end the interview with you being cast away to a desert island with the Bible, the complete works of Shakespeare and a great big picture of all your Ems Valley U3A friends! You are allowed to request one other thing, what will that be?***

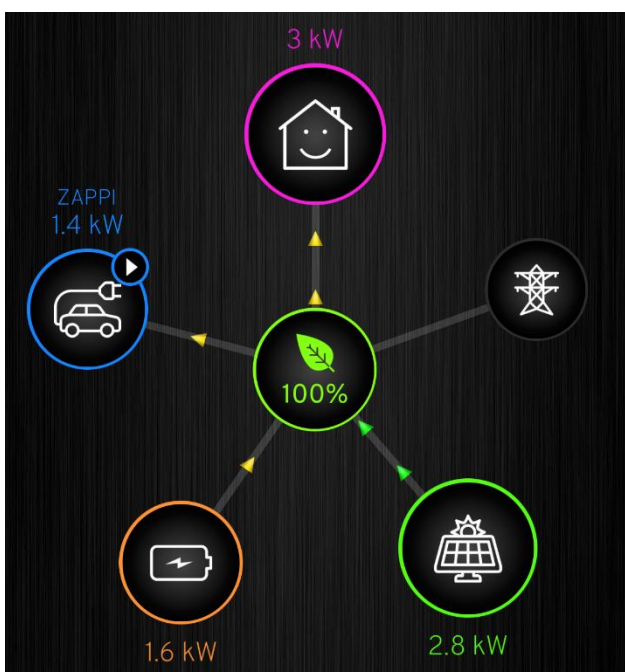
Rather than Shakespeare I would ask for Churchill's memoirs. The one other thing, easy, a solar powered transmitter and a piece of wire for an aerial so I can call for help!

## **STEM Group Goes Green !**

The December STEM Meeting will be held at our usual venue, St James's Hall on Thursday 1st December at 2.00 pm. First, a big thank you to Dr Josh McFayden, for his talk at our November meeting on Particle Physics Research at CERN. Also, thank you to Daphne Tomsett, Josh's Mother in Law, for arranging for him to visit! We had a bumper audience for this fascinating session by a world class expert. I learned a lot about the subject and what goes on at CERN, but I must confess that "Dark Matter", "Quarks" and "Leptons" still elude me a bit!



At our December meeting we are turning to a completely different topic and one that is very topical and much in the national news at the moment. We are going to look at saving money on your energy bills by installing Solar Panels and Batteries. One of my hobbies has been to install a complete system, including storage batteries, water heating and an electric car charging point, for which I harvest every scrap of the sun's energy falling on my South facing roof. I have only recently completed the system, but will be giving an insight into the design of "My Green Energy Home", and the savings possible in energy costs and CO2 emissions. I'll be better able to do this after a year of running, so will give an update, hopefully at our Dec 2023 meeting.



**There should be a few spare places for Ems Valley U3a members, who do not belong to STEM Group. If interested to attend, please contact me via the "messenger bird" on STEM group web page. You will get an email back, to confirm if you have a place.** After the talk, we will hold our traditional "Christmas Networking Session" over a glass of festive cheer and some nibbles. This part of the proceedings has no fixed aim whatsoever, apart from being purely social and an opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better! Jamie has kindly arranged an extra hour for our hall booking to allow time for this. We plan to finish by about 17.00 and be locking up the hall at 17.30. Please bring glasses some suitable drink (sherry / wine etc) and some Christmas snacks (please don't all bring mince pies?). I suggest we put these all on a table to share. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday the 1st December

**Dr Geoff Whalley**

## NOSTALGIA



**Do you have any idea where this view, from near the George on top of Portsdown Hill, was taken. I can remember as a boy, using it to walk down to Drayton. I guess it must be Drayton Lane?**

**Editor**

## **URGENT LAST REMINDER – DAYTRIPPERS VISIT TO PALLANT HOUSE GALLERY PLUS GREEK LUNCH!**

To date, we have 8 people and hope to get 10 or more.

Feel free to ask friends along.

Be at the Pallant House Gallery 11:00 AM Ticket Price £12.50 - 7 December, 2022

Followed by a Family Style Turkish Meal at Reina Kitchen Meze and Bar £20.00 .

We will be served hot and cold Meze Platters to start and the mains feature special dishes and a sampling of the menu. All served FAMILY STYLE (large platters on the table). Reina Kitchen is about a 10 minute walk from Pallant House Gallery.

**SIGN UP DEADLINE: Wednesday, 30 November to confirm numbers for lunch**

**Contact Steve GORBAN: Art Deco Furniture <psasibs@gmail.com>**

The plan is to meet the Gallery starting at 11:00 but you can get there earlier as it suits you.

For this trip, you will book tickets yourself and pay online.

Here is what to expect at the Gallery:

One of the most important public collections of Modern British art in the world

Our permanent collection displays tell the story of Modern British art from 1900 til now, all within the beautiful interiors of a Queen Anne townhouse.

Our collection will take you on a journey through Modern British art, from the early 20th century right up to current times.

Sussex Landscape: Chalk, Wood & Water

Sussex has a unique sense of place. Its distinctive chalk-cliff coastline and the rolling hills of the South Downs have inspired artists for centuries. From some of our greatest landscape artists like Constable and Turner to contemporary artists working in the area today, this exhibition lets you discover Sussex as a place of creativity, exploration, retreat and alternative life styles.

Anne Desmet: Kaleidoscope

What does looking at the world through the lens of a kaleidoscope reveal? Fractured, abstract images, unexpected patterns and beautiful symmetry. Looking at her existing work in this way inspired artist and wood engraver Anne Desmet R.A. to think afresh about ideas of time and change.

With Best Wishes and to see you soon,

**Pam, Simon and Steve**

## **Craft Group love Christmas!**

We had a really good turnout this month for our December meeting making festive items. Christmas cards



with super ideas from Margaret Melhuish, Gift box making with Katie Buttivant, which were so decorative. I showed how to do wine bottle decorating with LED lights,

Margaret Jordan gave us lots of other wonderful ideas. It was really good fun, and most people went home with a finished item they'd created, Well done everybody!

**See pic below:**

**Angela Blunden**



## Pianist WANTED for just one Event!

Are you a pianist with a sense of humour? Fancy throwing yourself into a madcap mini Pantomime.?

Play Reading Groups 1 and 2 are producing an informal entertainment for the delight and delectation of the u3a Ems Valley members next April and we would love you to come along and have some fun with us.

We are offbeat , jolly and welcoming.Oh no you're not!

Oh yes we are!

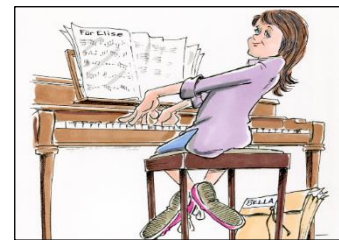
For more info phone Angela Baldry.

01243 372253 or Email [angel.b42@btinternet.com](mailto:angel.b42@btinternet.com)

Music involves well known tunes.

Performance date – one only -Thurs 27th April

Duration 25 mins.



## A SECOND or THIRD PILATES GROUP?

Due in no small part to our experienced and qualified tutor (Hannah) we now have a very successful Pilates group and all members of the group believe they benefit greatly from her exercises. Numbers of the group are fixed owing to space. While others have asked to join the group, this has not proved possible, with current members keen to retain their place. But, Hannah has now agreed to run a separate group for our u3a on Wednesdays in the Community Centre from 10:45 to 11:45. Hannah has now been provisionally booked with for this second class, starting 4<sup>th</sup> January.



Les Pallett, who leads the current group, will not be leading the new one. However, he is prepared to assist with setting it up and a leader(s) will be required. Leading the group is not onerous as Hannah (obviously) deals with most of the content of each meeting.

Interested? Contact Les via: [les.pallett21@gmail.com](mailto:les.pallett21@gmail.com).

## SINGING FOR FUN



on piano.

As usual we met on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and being November we celebrated by singing carols and enjoying mince pies with our teas at half time. Twenty four of us were present, and during the session we discussed whether we would take up an invitation to sing in the second half of one of our monthly meetings. To my surprise, they were (nearly) all enthusiastic, and thought that May would be a good slot, after the AGM. Meanwhile, we had a great time singing all the favourite carols, with the wonderful Helen as accompanist

**Anne Powell**

A Doctor was relaxing on his sofa one evening just after arriving home from work. As he was tuning into the evening news, the phone rang.

The doctor calmly answered it and heard the familiar voice of a colleague on the other end of the line.

"We have already opened an 18-year-old RARE SINGLE MALT GLENFIDDICH WHISKEY.

"I'll be right over," whispered the doctor.

As he was going out, his wife asked, "Is it serious..?"

"Oh yes, quite", said the doctor gravely.

Shaking his head, he muttered "Only 18 years old. 3 doctors are there already!"

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## WARM SPACES – Emsworth Community Centre.

**Starting on Thursday 3 Nov. 1pm - 5pm and Friday 4 Nov. 11am -2.30pm.**

There will be Hot drinks and Biscuits with Board games and Jigsaws on Thursday, and on Friday there will be Hot drinks Soup and rolls

**This will be ongoing through the winter, 2 days a week at Emsworth Community Centre, plus, we list below, other venues where you can be warm this winter!**



# Emsworth & Westbourne WARM SPACES



Hot drinks & a warm welcome.  
Various locations (see timetable).  
Everyone Welcome!



## EMSWORTH WARM SPACES

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY	Westbourne Parish Hall 10am - 12pm Emsworth Pastoral Centre 10am - 1pm	Emsworth Baptist Church 1pm - 4pm Westbourne Meeting Place 4pm - 8pm
TUESDAY	Emsworth Pastoral Centre 10am - 1pm	Emsworth Baptist Church 1pm - 4pm
WEDNESDAY	Emsworth Pastoral Centre 10am - 12pm	St James Parish Hall 1pm - 4pm Westbourne Meeting Place 4pm - 8pm
THURSDAY	New Life Church 9am - 12pm Emsworth Pastoral Centre 10am - 1pm	St James Parish Hall 1pm - 4pm <b>*Emsworth Community Centre 1pm - 5pm</b>
FRIDAY	New Life Church 9am - 12pm Waterside URC Church (Emsworth) 10am - 11.30 am Emsworth Pastoral Centre 10am - 1pm	<b>*Emsworth Community Centre 11am - 2.30pm</b> Emsworth Baptist Church 1pm - 4pm



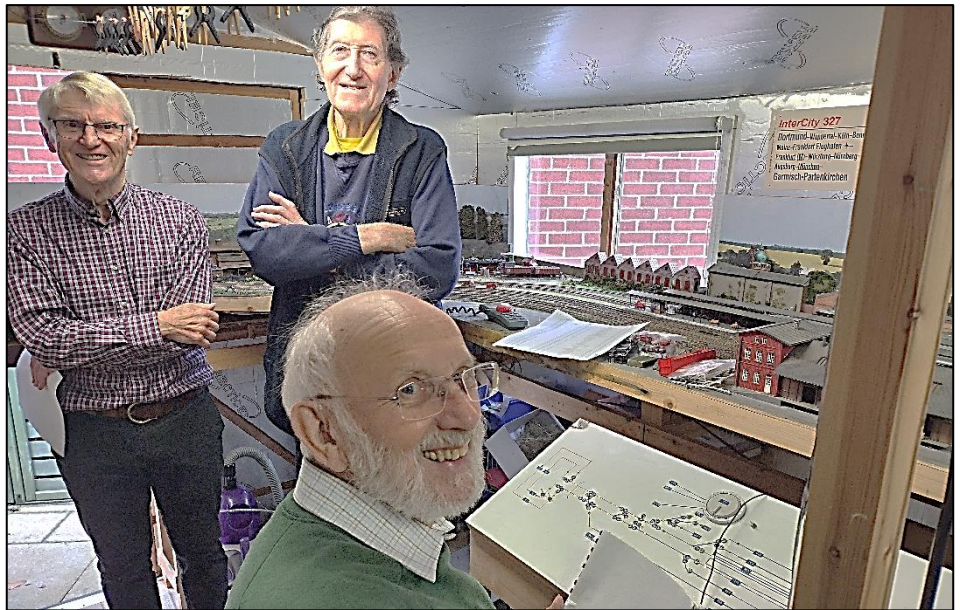
The Flintstones, which originally aired in 1960, was the first television program (animated or otherwise) to show a married couple sharing the same bed.



## Model Railway Group Meeting 14th October 2022

It was good to welcome John to the October meeting of the Model Railway Group, especially as he takes a good photo, albeit that he was not into selfies on this occasion!

Four of us met at Les, our leader's house, and were shown how trees could be made to add to the scenic effects of layouts. Numerous model trees are available commercially, but a cheaper, more satisfying, and probably more realistic result can be achieved by making your own.



Examples were shown using two materials - dried sea moss and dried buddleia flowers from the garden. Different colours and effects can be achieved using spray or brushed paint and other effects achieved by the addition of some adhesive and coloured flock, all relatively simple and cheap to do.

Simple technology can also be employed to create realistic lawns or fields of grass or straw by using "static grass". This is accomplished by shaking man-made fibre strands through a metal sieve connected to a power supply. This causes the fibres to stand upright when landing on an adhesive coated surface, and creates your lawn or field.

Impressive tree examples and fields used for real we then saw when we adopted our engine driver or fat controller roles on Les's layout. A timetable had been devised by Les and, after a brief teach-in, we were let loose on his extensive layout



which has been built up over many years.

Locomotives are all digitally controlled so three of us were responsible for their trains following the timetable, whilst I, as the fat controller, did my best to ensure that the "roads" (all the points) were set, in order for them to safely do so. Several shunting manoeuvres were successfully achieved, as well as operation of the turntable, before the various trains completed their allotted journeys and it was time to say farewell until the next meeting, which is scheduled for the second Friday of the month, and in fact did take place on 11th November, with more successful timetabled running.

**But do contact Les to check on venue and the subject/activity to be covered if you wish to join us or find out more.**

**Peter Weller**

## Monthly meeting Talk by Peter Forster raises issues!

Our member, Peter, gave a very informative talk about Pollution in Langstone and Chichester Harbours last Thursday, and gave us plenty to think about! Unfortunately the many questions and issues that members wished to raise were timed out!

## The iceman cometh...

The remains of Ötzi, who's named after the Ötztal Alps where he was found, were discovered on Sept. 19, 1991 by German tourists in an Alpine pass between Italy and Austria. **Ems Valley Wine Appreciation One members** discovered him in June 2015 in a Bolzano museum. The hikers first thought they'd found the preserved body of a modern mountaineer, but investigations later determined that Ötzi died about 5,300 years ago. According to the Secrets of the Ice website, the generally accepted story of Ötzi's death comes from investigations by archaeologist Konrad Spindler of the University of Innsbruck in Austria.

Spindler found that Ötzi had probably been murdered: an arrowhead was embedded in his shoulder, and a deep cut in his hand appeared to be a defensive wound suffered while warding off a blow. He also noted that Ötzi's backpack, bow and arrow quiver were damaged, which Spindler proposed was a sign of combat. A new study also questions the prevailing story of Ötzi's death suggesting that Ötzi did not die in the gully where he was found. Rather, his remains may have been carried there by the periodic thawing of the ice that surrounded his body. And the new evidence now argues that the damage to Ötzi's equipment was probably caused by the pressure of the ice that surrounded them.



It is quite amazing when and where a glass of wine can lead you.....

## Once again this year, I've already had many requests for my Christmas Brandy Cake recipe so here goes:

1 cup sugar, half pound butter, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 cup water, 1 tsp. salt, 1 cup brown sugar, Lemon juice, 4 large eggs, Nuts, 1 bottle VSOP Martel Brandy, 2 cups dried fruit, 1 cup glace cherries, 4 cups self raising flour.

Sample a cup of the brandy to check quality.

Take a large bowl,

Check the Brandy again to be sure it is VSOP, then Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer.

Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add 1 teaspoon of shugar.

Beat again.

At this point, it is best to make sure the Brandy came from the correct bottle and is still OK.

Try another cup just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy.

Break 2 eegs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick the fruit up off the floor, wish it and put it in the bowl a piece at a time - trying to count it, for accurassy.

Mix on the turner.

If the fried druit getas stuck in the beaterers, just pry it loose with a klean drewscriver

Remmebner to test brenday for tonsisticity.

Next, sift 2 cups of salt, or something.

Tilt remender of Brenda in

Now shit shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.

Add one table.

Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink.

Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven. Turn the cake tin 360 degrees, tickling care not to fill over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window.  
Finish off the Brendaay and wipe the counter with the cat.

Teepical Chestons :

Can I replace the sugar with Brenda in this recipe , jus askin for a fiend?

Can you use a neeeeghbar's cat if you don't own one yershelth?

I had a blind date last night, but before it I was worried what to do if she was really unattractive. My friend told me not to worry as there's an app for just that situation. It's called 'Mum Are You Okay' and it schedules your phone to ring just after you meet your date:

If you like her, you just ignore your phone. If you want to cut short the date, you answer with. "Mum? What's the matter? Are you okay?"

It works every time, no worries.

So anyway, I knocked on the girl's door and it turns out I needn't have worried at all. She was absolutely gorgeous and stunning.

But just when I was about to speak to her, her phone rang. She answered it and said. "Mum? What's the matter? Are you okay?" 😂😂

Billy Connolly - known affectionately in Scotland as 'The Big Yin' - celebrated his 80th birthday on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Here's a few of his one liners:

"I don't know why I should have to learn algebra... I'm never likely to go there."

"Who discovered we could get milk from cows, and what did he think he was doing at the time?"

"I used to be a folk singer but I was dreadful. I had a voice like a goose farting in the fog."

"Bonnie Prince Charlie was the only man ever named after three sheepdogs."

"There are two seasons in Scotland: June and Winter."

**Message from the Editor: I am looking forward to your news stories about your Christmas get togethers - please email me with pictures!**

**alanborrow@virginmedia.com**

