



# February Newsletter

## “Knees Up” Dinner at JJ’s results in Massive Cheque for “EMSWORTH IN BLOOM”!

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January there was a special “KNEES UP” night at JJ’s in South Street at which, it seemed, half of the Ems Valley u3a membership were present! We had a very appropriate East End Meat Pie followed by the obligatory suet Spotted Dick! All the old numbers were sung and enjoyed and, although I didn’t actually see the lovely chantress, I have a very strong suspicion that Vera Lynn was present! The most important result was the massive cheque that Johnny Miller handed to our Sheila Morris at the end of the proceedings. It was massive in more than it’s physical size - it was massive in it’s generosity – a magnificent £2,500!

When she is not on u3a business, Sheila heads the Emsworth in Bloom charity! We all benefit from ‘Emsworth in Bloom’ every year! Thank you Sheila.



## Interview with Liz Heath

*Hello Liz, when did you join our u3a? I can remember walking with you in Pauline Tyrer’s “Rambling” group years and years ago!*



I think that I joined about a year after you started Alan, it would have been 2006/7. I knew that it would be a good way to meet more people in Emsworth. My friend Carol Knight suggested that I accompany her to a monthly meeting. I remember going and thinking “Oh they all look so old, I don’t know if this is for me. When I got back home, I looked in the mirror and decided that I should join after all!”

**Left: Local History at the Novium Museum in Chichester – getting to grips with the Roman headgear! Liz in is the centre.**

***Then my memory links you with Local History for many years??***

Yes Local history was my first real “job” in Ems Valley u3a! I didn’t know much about the history of the area and I knew very little about Emsworth and district! But there was the challenge, and the reward was my greatly increased knowledge of where I was now living. Looking back, we had great fun!

***How long have you been in Emsworth, and where did you reside before?***

When I first came down from London, I lived in a little cottage adjacent to the Royal Oak at Langstone. It was listed as Langstone High Street, but one had to take very good note of the tide times! In my twelve years there the water made an unwelcome visit on two occasions! But I enjoyed my little cottage by the sea. It was great when I was working, but Emsworth had more activities and the conveniences of shops etc. So I moved to my house adjacent to the old school, now the community centre, some twenty five years ago.

***Can you tell us a little about your working career. You would never give me a straight answer on your life in London! So, I am as anxious as the other 500 Ems Valley members to hear this account!***

Yes, I did string you along a little Alan.... After Art School, I had a job as a fashion designer in London. Ladies blouses was my first work in this field. I have always been interested in fashion, fabrics, design and colours. I think that I have worked in every department you associate with fashion, including publicity and promotion. I worked for a leading company in the paper pattern business, Style and Simplicity. It was an amalgamation of the UK business “Style” and the American company “Simplicity” I really enjoyed it and it was so creative. The job was all about preparing for the Summer and the Winter collections. But of course we had to be six months in advance of the actual collection date. Hence I had to go filming in hot climes abroad for the Summer collection (in our winter) and visa versa for the winter collection. I also have fond memories of visiting the trade fabric fairs in Germany twice a year! It was an exciting and challenging time in my life!

***But what brought you down to this area?***

A good friend of mine took a position with Butterick, a competitor who worked from New Lane Havant. She must have mentioned me to the management, because I soon had an offer from them and – I suppose – I was headhunted! It was at a time when my London firm had just moved out of central London to lesser premises at Ealing. I didn’t know where Havant was, but I was off! I later found out that it was by the sea.

***I believe you came down here with a well loved “partner”!***

You are talking about my pride and joy – my little car. I always wanted a Morgan sports car and had been saving up like mad for one. One day, I was travelling to work on the bus when I saw a beautiful sports car advertised for sale by the side of the road. I immediately disembarked to make some enquiries about it – the colour and the looks just



grabbed me! I had never heard of the make, a Panther Lima! It was second hand and I asked the price. Amazingly, it was exactly the amount that I had so far saved for my future Morgan. I bought it on the spot! Of course it accompanied me down here and for many happy miles!

***How long did you work at Buttericks?***

Not sure, but I was made redundant in their cutbacks. I

was not ready to hang up my scissors, and, one day I was in Chichester when I passed the window of Sykes, in South Street. Seeing fabrics in the ground floor (their hat dept was on the upper floor) I went in to browse. I had to wait to

be served as the person was on the phone, discussing a job vacancy – my antenna soon picked up. I asked about the job when the conversation ended and was told that it was in the hat dept., upstairs. Hats sounded interesting and my mother had had a career in Millinery. I got the job! A new career was opening up. Sykes were quite famous for their hats and the local society weddings plus the Goodwood races meant plenty of custom. I really enjoyed my new found trade!

Unfortunately Sykes decided to move out of their prime South Street premises and I was not too interested in their new location, besides I had an idea.... I knew a hairdresser in Havant who was prepared to divide his premises to enable me to have my own little hat shop. I was in my element getting ready to open my own shop. But it only lasted for two years because he decided he wanted to sell up. I was devastated because my business was getting off the ground very nicely. I decided to go for it – hook line and sinker – and buy my own premises. It was in the Pallant and it was the prettiest little shop in Havant, even though I say it myself! I made space for a self contained changing room, and clients could bring their complete outfit to my shop, change into it, in order to try on their new hat. The Lady Mayor of the time opened the new shop and I was off again. I loved it. When I retired I had second thoughts and perhaps wish I was still there! But I found Ems Valley u3a!

***What other groups do you belong to in u3a, Liz?***

Rambling, Art Appreciation, Discussion with Val Swarbrick, and Literature which I also loved – thank you Peter Morse and Sandra McGregor.



I have very happy memories of my Film study group which I ran for many years, We would select a film directors, look at various clips of his or her work, and then discuss. We had about twelve members. The highlight of the year was the Summer outing when we would go to the New Park Cinema in Chichester and take over their little caravan cinema in the front for a special film showing accompanied by a tea which would be tailored to the setting of the film!

***Left: Liz pictured in her hat shop at Havant.***

***What do you do in life when u3a is not the subject?***

Well, I am taking it a bit easier now, but have enjoyed being a Steward at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, I particularly remember the day we did Tudor cooking, I am still getting rid of the soot.... I did Meals on Wheels for Havant Council and I enjoy Nadfast, now called the Arts Society.

***When I came to live in Emsworth fifteen years ago, the formation of our u3a was a wonderful way of meeting a great group of friends. Was it the same for you?***

Yes I have met and still retain many many friends in our u3a. It really is a wonderful organisation for getting to know local people, both through the interest groups and the Monthly meetings.

***If you had your time over again, do you have a yearning for an interest group not yet thought of?***

Not sure about this one, but I do find that Jigsaws are fascinating, particularly in relation to colours and design, which appeals to me! My current 1000 piece puzzle is titled “Venetian Masks” and it is amazing in that respect. I also recall a similar “Hot Air Balloons”, and buildings always are good!

***How do you view the lockdown years of 2020 and 2021 and any comments on our efforts to keep going on Zoom?***

I think that lockdown has had an effect on us all. Yes, we did try and keep going on Zoom in our literature group. Initially, Lockdown was a bit of a novelty – no planes in the sky – social distancing. I managed to keep my friends together with tea parties in the front garden – sitting well apart and keeping the mask raised until the cup was offered up to lips! But even today, I still think twice before entering a crowded space. I think that there has been a lasting effect.

*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 compendium about dear old Emsworth. You are allowed to request one other thing, what will that be?*

With safety in mind, may I have a large edition of “All dangerous insects and animals known to man”!

## Theatre Group - Come to my get-together!



I am holding a meeting at the Emsworth Community Centre on Monday 13th February 10.30-12.00 in Mountford 3. I would like to invite all existing members of the theatre group – plus those of you who may be considering membership of our group, It will be a little informal get together over coffee, and It will provide the opportunity to discuss possible theatre outings during the coming year, in addition to Chichester Festival Theatre. To help me plan refreshments, I would appreciate it if you could let me know by Monday 6th if wish to come along on the 13th. Just go to yhe Ems Valley u3a web site – click on “GROUPS” click on the Carrier pigeon and send me a best wishes Maureen Falloon

message!

## BRICKS BUSINESS



At part of our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January we viewed an interesting film of Brickmaking on Hayling Island by the Pycroft family. They made bricks right up until the mid 1970s. This was a small family business producing bricks by the clamp method in the summer months. It was started by Mr. Pycroft's father in 1934 and, before that the family have a history of brickmaking in Fareham and district. The bricks were multicoloured facings with a strong blue/brown/yellow colouring. They are made from brickearth brought to the site by lorries from the many house foundations being excavated on the island. About 26 attended our meeting and they found the film most instructive! The



clamp that we saw being fired in the film contained 66 thousand bricks which would have been sufficient for about six houses.

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Alan Borrow

## JANUARY CRAFT MEETING



We had a very good turnout at the first meeting of the New Year and had fun creating pictures from pebbles, buttons and shells, we also made felt brooches, and cards.

One of our group did a lovely 'Puffin' needle felt card, and another finished her LED bottle that we were doing last month. I noticed that another member was knitting a bobble hat. Very suitable for the time of the year!

So fun was had by all and we look forward to February's meeting.

**Angela Blunden**

**Editor comment: reading Liz Heath's interview above and the scrolling down to the Craft report, I mused – What would happen if we had an Easter Bonnet competition at the Monthly Meeting.....**

## U3A Eye

Did you know that with a click of a few buttons on your computer or mobile 'phone you can contribute a sentence, and a photograph, to the U3A's national e-newsletter? I am embarrassed to say I didn't know about this useful



publication until I attended a planning meeting of our Ems Valley Photography Group, but in my defence I'd only been a member of this U3A for a couple of months.

The newsletter has a section under the National Programmes tab called U3A Eye where there is a rolling photography project to encourage members to take photographs based on a different theme each month. It is NOT a competition and not about photographic skills, or having all the high end equipment. They are looking for interesting interpretations of the month's theme. Anything which has captured the imagination, or caught the eye, and been captured with a 'phone, tablet or

digital camera.

The pic above depicts my entry in "Heatwave fun", and the one on the left is my interpretation of "Done and Dusted"!

At the end of the month they select 15 photos to publish in the online gallery. I have entered a photograph each month since learning about the project and have been fortunate to have two of my images showcased ( Water and Festive themes); a friend on Hayling Island had one published after I told them about it (Movement theme).



If you haven't done so already, do look through the past themes and the images that have been published. You don't have to be a member of a photography group to take part, and it is not complicated to upload the one image, and short explanation, that you are allowed to submit each month.

It would be wonderful to see some Ems Valley U3A members' images in the gallery, so I urge you to take part during 2023. If you think you have a photograph that meets the current month's theme, go for it, and send it in; it just might tickle the selectors' imagination and be published in the national newsletter!

**Jackie Rea**

**Editor: This sounds great fun, thanks for highlighting it Jackie! Come On you photographers, plenty of scope for thoughtful ingenuity here!**



The above photo was submitted in the "New and Old" subject matter and it titled 'New Greenwich, Old Greenwich' by Jenny LeBeau of Abbey Wood & Thamesmead u3a.

## **Spanish- Intermediate**

**At a recent Spanish meeting the members discussed various customs in different countries at the time of New Years Eve.**

They listed 12 New Years Eve Traditions From Around the World:

Japan: Ringing 108 Bells -This tradition, known as joyanokane, is meant to both dispel the 108 evil desires in each and every person and cleanse the previous year of past sins.:

Denmark: Smashing old plates - the more you smash, the better luck you can expect

Philippines: Serving 12 round fruits - shaped as coins

Mexico: Giving the gift to friends and family of homemade tamales - corn dough stuffed with meat, cheese, and veggies all wrapped in husks



Greece: Hanging an onion outside the door. Greeks believe that onions are a symbol of rebirth

Costa Rica: Cleaning your home

Colombia: Describing and then burning a piece of paper about something of the worst kind that happened in the past year 'Ser olvidado para siempre' ! (To be forgotten always )

Chile: Holding Mass at a cemetery - allows for people to sit with their deceased family members and include them in the New Year's Eve festivities.:



clip art Bad things into bonfire at New Years EveScotland : First footing - Traditionally, these men come bearing gifts of coal, salt, shortbread, and whiskey, all of which further contribute to the idea of having good fortune.

Turkey: Sprinkling salt on a doorstep - promotes peace and prosperity

Spain: Eating 12 grapes - One grape for each of the first 12 bell strikes after midnight in the hope that this will bring about a year of good fortune and prosperity.

Italy: Wearing red underwear - it means a bright future ahead

**Richard Swaine**

Whilst living in Southern Spain between 2013 and 2018 I was invited to celebrate the end of the old year and to welcome the new one on a couple of occasions. I had a group of friends from many countries including Ecuador and Chile. The friend from Ecuador was particularly sociable and lived very close to the local beach. As a group of 'fiestita' invitees, along with the usual Spanish way of celebrating the midnight reverie by attempting to swallow a grape with each bong of the bell, I was introduced to a South American tradition that was new to me.

An open fire was lit either in the private garden or, more atmospherically, on the public beach. The beach was subtly



lit by individual clusters of small bonfires surrounded by groups of friends and families. It wasn't a raucous atmosphere as in the nearby city centre but rather contemplative and calm. As the end of the year approached, and the various forms of drink flowed, we were invited to write on a piece of notepaper something that we wished NOT to take into the new one. This was not a tangible object but an emotion, a relationship, a situation or circumstance that we no longer felt positive about and wished to change. As the new year chimes struck we were invited again to drop the papers

one at a time onto the open flames and to see them shrivel and flare in the glowing flames.

They say you don't remember events by what they made you think rather than what they made you feel. I can vividly remember the sounds and sights of those nights, also the warmth of the friendships but not what I wrote on the paper!

**Jude Kemp**

## **Ems Valley U3A Cycling Group Ride to Hayling Island 16 January 2023**

With daytime temperatures of 2°C, reports of flooding, and wind speeds up to 30 miles an hour predicted, what better way to spend a Monday could there be than to cycle to the bottom of Hayling Island and back! Surprisingly there were 14 of us in total brave or foolhardy enough to take on the worst that the weather gods could throw at us. Nine of us gathered at the first starting point in the Horndean Road park, but by the time, we'd cycled to The Ship at Langstone, via some gargantuan puddles at





## **Mah Jong**

The Mah Jong group meet on Thursdays at 2.30pm finishing at 4.30pm . [Not as stated in the last newsletter - 3.00 - 5.00pm] and the meetings are held at the Westbourne Church Hall.

We are in a position to welcome some new members if anyone would like to join. Please contact Barbara Stevens if you are interested via the web site.

**Barbara Stevens**

## **Disturbance at Emsworth Roundabout**

When leaving the excellent monthly meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Ems Valley members were immediately caught up in a major disturbance centred on the Emsworth roundabout. The pavement corner by the Old Hospital Gardens formed the essential viewing point. What had happened? I counted 20 policemen, two police peoples carriers plus six police cars from far and wide. There was talk of a chase, an arrest and handcuffs being applied.

Personally, I think that it may have been connected to those u3a members leaving the meeting hall early, what you might call an early arrest. But no doubt we will get the full story when the case is heard at the Old Bailey in a few months time. I hope the court case doesn't reflect on the attendance for the next meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.....

## **Fairly awful Puns:**

**I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought:**

**"That's the last thing I need!"**

**Need an ark?**

**I Noah guy.**

**How do you make holy water?**

**You boil the hell out of it.**

**Will glass coffins be a success?**

**Remains to be seen**

**What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo?**

**One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.**

**Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?**

**There's no menu - you get what you deserve.**

**I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday**

**but couldn't find any.**

**What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?**

**A maybe**

**I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage.**

**I lost my case.**

**When everything is coming your way,**

**you're in the wrong lane.**

**She had a photographic memory**

**but never developed it.**

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?

I don't know and don't really care.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant,  
but then I changed my mind.

The guy who invented the door knocker  
got a no-bell prize.

I used to think I was indecisive;  
now I'm not so sure.

Sleeping comes so naturally to me,  
I do it with my eyes closed.

What did the grape say when it got stepped on?  
Nothing - but it let out a little whine.

## Slightly less awful Puns

An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I used to date a girl with one leg who worked at a brewery. She was in charge of the hops.

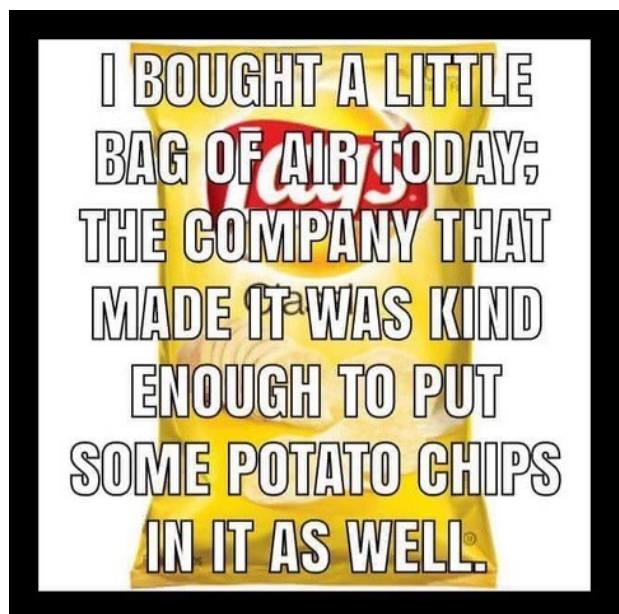
My cross-eyed wife and I just got a divorce. I found out she was seeing someone on the side.

My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met. I'm not buying it.

Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow has only 16. The difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.



## Amusing quotes about getting old:

1. *Looking 50 is great if you're 60.* ~Joan Rivers
2. *Age is a high price to pay for maturity.* ~Tom Stoppard
3. *No man is ever old enough to know better.* ~Holbrook Jackson
4. *Time may be a great healer but it's a lousy beautician.* ~Author Unknown
5. *When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick.* ~George Burns
6. *A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams.* ~John Barrymore
7. *You're only young once but you can stay immature indefinitely.* ~Ogden Nash
8. *Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative.* ~Maurice Chevalier
9. *You know you're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like, "See if you can blow this out."* ~Jerry Seinfeld
10. *Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.* ~Author Unknown
11. *Old age is when you resent the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated because there are fewer articles to read.* ~George Burns
12. *A stockbroker urged me to buy a stock that would triple its value every year. I told him, "At my age, I don't even buy green bananas."* ~Claude Pepper
13. *You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.* ~Bob Hope
14. *He's so old that when he orders a three-minute egg, they ask for the money upfront.* ~George Burns
15. *By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.* ~Billy Crystal
16. *True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.* ~Kurt Vonnegut
17. *There is no pleasure worth forgoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward.* ~John Mortimer
18. *You can live to be a hundred if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be a hundred.* ~Woody Allen
19. *As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.* ~Sir Norman Wisdom
20. *I don't do alcohol anymore. I can get the same effect just standing up fast.* ~Author Unknown
21. *None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm.* ~Henry David Thoreau
22. *Talk about getting old. I was getting dressed and a peeping tom looked in the window, took a look and pulled down the shade.* ~Joan Rivers
23. *Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.* ~Larry Lorenzoni
24. *It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens.* ~Woody Allen
25. *If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself.* ~Author Unknown

### Next Monthly meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Have you always been fascinated by Hallmarking?

Mark Lewis Mark will be our speaker at the next monthly meeting. He is a freelance artist, designer-silversmith and retired university lecturer. "A Mark of Quality - The History and Practice of Hallmarking" will fill in the gaps that you have always encountered when assessing your family heirlooms, or even those possessions that you might have thought worthless! Don't miss this talk!

## A Valentine Joke:

You came home early from your date," John observed to his roommate. "What happened?"

"Well," said the flatmate, "after dinner she invited me up to her flat. We had a couple of drinks and she put on some soft music. Then she reached over and turned out the lights."

"So, what next?" asked John, eyebrows raised.

"I can take a hint," said his flatmate. "I came home."

**All contributions for the next newsletter please to:**

**[alanborrow@virginmedia.com](mailto:alanborrow@virginmedia.com)**