



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

CHRIMBO LIMBO

I'm in that Crimbo Limbo, twix Christmas and New Year. I forget the time, the day or even what's the year?
I'm full of festive goodies as I take a swig of rum, and another glass of brandy is swirling round my tum.
A mince pie or some Christmas cake, it doesn't bother me. Tasty food upon my plate and happy I will be.
Another wadge of pudding, the last cracker needs a pull. Caviar, Port and Stilton – I'm getting rather full.
Time is now suspended, whilst this Crimbo Limbo's here. I DON'T CARE what day it is but I'd like another beer...

Crafts Group report:

Angela Blunden writes: We had a Representative from the Linus Project Charity, a lovely lady, named Caroline Toone, to give us a very interesting talk about how the Linus project started in America, the name coming from the 'Peanuts' character, Linus and his security blanket. But now it is very much here in the UK, and provides handmade quilts for babies, children and young adults in Hospitals, Hospices or in Care, with their very own quilt to keep. We handed over 12 Quilts we had all made in the craft group and Caroline was so pleased and grateful. We had refreshments of Mince pies, Stollen and biscuits, so a wonderful last meeting of the year. See our pic below!





DAY TRIPPERS to CHICHESTER this time!



On Wednesday 7 December, Day Trippers tripped out to Chichester. Some of us went to Pallant House Gallery to see a special exhibition of artists inspired by the sea, cliffs and countryside of West Sussex. My first time to Pallant House which is a beautiful venue and well worth a visit. The picture shows the beautiful Sussex 'Turner' of Chichester canal.

Needless to say there is a little café and gift shop. As we were a bit early we gathered for a coffee before separating to view the exhibition.

Eight of us went on to lunch at a Turkish restaurant called 'Reina Cafe and Bar'. It's opposite the car park where the market used to be held (i.e. the bottom of East Street). Another first for me (I'm so intrepid). It is a large restaurant tastefully decorated to reflect the cuisine. There is seating upstairs for busy times and large groups.

The Mediterranean decor was interesting and you could see the kitchen and food preparation.

I think nearly all of us made different choices, so it was interesting to see how dishes were presented. There were complementary 'sharing' dishes for a 'starter', which were very tasty. Judging by the empty plates, I guess we all enjoyed our meal.



Once again it was good to chat with people, perhaps we'd seen at other gatherings, but not talked to. Well done Steve Gorban for arranging a good trip!

Katie Wiggins

Ems Valley U3A – Garden Group



No garden visit in November for the Ems Valley Garden Group, instead we had our annual meeting in the Community Centre. We are delighted to say the Garden Group is thriving and there was an excellent turnout of members along with prospective members from our waiting list.

Attendees were given a written resume of the gardens visited by the group in 2022, a programme for the first three months in 2023, and existing members were given a Christmas menu for our Christmas lunch in December at the Sailing Club. We also had a suggestions box, as new ideas and introductions to gardens not previously seen always help to make an interesting programme for the year.

This year we introduced a speaker. Marilyn Stevens, a member of the Garden Media Guild, (pictured left) gave us a fascinating talk about choosing the Rose of the Year, followed by a short Q&A session. Marilyn, who lives on our doorstep, has worked with rose breeders and professional growers for 20 years. She has been a project manager for the Festival of Roses at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show, MC for

press events and co-ordinating press and public relations. Marilyn currently manages social media accounts for Roses UK (based in Emsworth) and the introduction and promotion of the Rose of the Year. We gained some good tips on how to care for our roses.

We held a raffle, which proved very popular, for 6 bare root Peach Melba roses which are the Rose of the Year for 2023, very generously donated to us by Marilyn.

There is no meeting in January and we plan to visit Denmans Garden in February, and Down Place near South Harting in March.

Diana Faithfull and Ronnie Tyler

Editor : My apologies to Ronnie for not including this report in the last newsletter

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE BROOKFIELD HOTEL

The Ems Valley u3a Christmas lunch was held at the Brookfield Hotel this year on Thursday 8th December. A three course meal with menu choices was served to appreciative members as you can see from the collage below! Dbee Robinson made attractive origami decorations and composed a Christmas Quiz for us all. I enclose a copy at the end



of this report so that members who did not attend can have a go over the Christmas period! In the meanwhile, many grateful thanks to Dbee for all of her organisational work to ensure the success of this event!

Christmas Lunch – Garden Group

We had a wonderful lunch with 26 garden group members at the Emsworth Sailing Club on Tuesday 13th December. The meal was delicious and the table decorations were beautiful, as you can see from the picture under.



Wine Appreciation One

We held our Christmas tasting on the twentieth of December and dedicated it to the memory of Maureen and Rex Ballard-Neale, members we sadly lost after some seventeen years of membership and fellowship. We remembered their amazing service to the Emsworth community through their many different service groups. We had a record attendance at this tasting and members enjoyed the Portuguese wines and the accompanying tasty food items served with each! The photos tell the story! (credits to Jeff Thatcher.) Our grateful thanks were recorded to Gwen and Alan Brown for setting the table decorations!

Alan Borrow



Letters to the Editor

Ref - Water Pollution Presentation to the Monthly meeting by Peter Forster

Firstly I would like to thank Peter for his informative presentation. I certainly understand a little more about the process. Sadly, as it overrun, there was no time for questions. These are just a few of the questions I would have asked Peter or Southern Water if I had the chance. And please excuse me if I do not use all the correct language, wording or abbreviations, as there were so many to try and remember.

It was encouraging to hear that the water company requested weather predictions from the Met office (or equivalent) 30 years ago, and so they were, as Peter stated, informed of what the weather would be like in 30 years, which was drought and very heavy rain. Well they got that right!

Statement 1: Therefore Southern water have had 30 years to prepare for this very scenario. Southern Water have pleaded guilty to nearly 7,000 illegal discharges in court in 2021 and only be fined £90 million. (*See fine info below*) Which sounds like a lot, however Shareholders have taken home nearly £1 BILLION in dividends over the last 10 years - surely some of which should have been used to improve infrastructure? (*See Profit and Bonus info below*)

Question 1: We understand it has been improved, but why have they not addressed it properly by now with the 30 years water payments and profits they have received from all of us?

Statement 2: It was stated that the tanks which hold excessive water during heavy rain HAVE to be discharged out to sea if they overflow (with no UVA treatment, full of disease and bacteria,) or would we rather it flood our homes?

Question 2: Of course no one wants that, but surely bigger tanks? More direct drainage from rain water drains? Or perhaps storm drains similar to other counties that have learnt to deal with this monsoon type scenario. Or maybe address the treatment of this excessive water prior to pumping it out into our coastline, again 30 years of our money, to invest in better science and engineering to prepare for this issue.

Statement 3: The Victorian pipes around Portsmouth are over 9 meters deep.

Question 3: I am unsure what the significance of this was, but surely if they are that deep, there is room for extra pipes to be put in above them just to take out the rain. Especially when new houses are built.

Statement 4: People joining household waste pipes to the wrong drainage system.

Question 4: The amount of pollution entering our rivers and seas due to this, compared to the flushing of sewerage by southern water is not comparable. This is surely traceable and those found guilty prosecuted and forced to pay for the clean up?

Lastly, Peter stated the 'windsurfing protesters' were going to disrupt the area, glue themselves to the roads etc. No one did this at all, it was a peaceful protest outside Buds Farm and main routes around the area, trying to encourage the water company to engage with them, but they refuse to do so. There were groups of peaceful protesters of varying ages, more senior than teen surfers trying to protect our waters. (*See The News interview below*)

Sadly, profit is the motivation of a private company, and as the spokesperson in the interview implies, only bringing it back under public domain will public health be more important than the profit. But surely the £1 BILLION in dividends over the last 10 years should get something tangible done, it shouldn't have to be put back in public hands to do this.

I would change suppliers if I could, yet we have no choice but to accept their pollution of our waters. Southern Water implies sewerage out to sea or in our homes. This, after a 30 years warning, and profit, is an unacceptable statement. I truly worry it is cheaper and easier (as well as beneficial for the shareholders) for Southern Water to keep paying the fines and keep the huge dividends, than actually spend the money we pay them to resolve the problem.

I would like to thank Peter again for his excellent presentation and bringing this worrying issue to our attention. To ensure we know all the facts from both sides of this very important matter, I would like the committee to even the balance of this issue, and invite a spokesperson from the protestors to state their view and facts to us all as soon as possible.

Dbee Robinson

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Fines & no. of spills data: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-57777935>

Profits over 10 years: <https://sussexbylines.co.uk/profits-from-pollution-how-private-monopoly-southern-water-is-failing-the-public/>

Bonus data: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/19/bonuses-for-water-bosses-in-england-up-20-last-year-despite-sewage-failures>

Peaceful protest The News interview <https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/people/southern-water-protest-outside-plant-in-havant-over-sewage-discharges-and-lack-of-public-meeting-3931075>

We forwarded this letter to Peter Forster for his comments and reply:

From Peter Forster - My Answer to Question One:

This question is very complex. Water UK, the trade body for UK water companies, realised after the drought of 1976 that there were signs of climate change. However at that time the models had not been built and there was insufficient computing power to accurately predict events 30 to 50 years into the future. However in the early 90's things had changed sufficiently to make an attempt at this work.

The results were summarised in my talk.

The objectives of the exercise were to establish what impact there would be on water supply and if there should be investment in new reservoirs. Additionally to assess the need for new design criteria for the provision of new sewers to serve residential development.

Indeed the UK design standards for new systems were modified to cater for more extreme weather events and these have been in use for over twenty years.

Modifying or enlarging existing systems that in some cases are nearly 200 years old is a complex and expensive option.

Sewers are generally laid under roads below gas, electricity, water, telecoms and cable.

the deeper the depth the wider the trench. Each house has a connection to the main sewer and this makes trenchless techniques very difficult. The disruption caused by even a one percent upgrade of the existing system would bring about massive disruption.

If this work was to be approved by OFWAT the cost would be borne by the customers of the water company. How much more are you prepared to pay?

My answer to Statement 2 and to Question 2

Statement 2: It was stated that the tanks which hold excessive water during heavy rain HAVE to be discharged out to sea if they overflow (with no UVA treatment, full of disease and bacteria,) or would we rather it flood our homes?

Question 2: Of course no one wants that, but surely bigger tanks? More direct drainage from rainwater drains? Or perhaps storm drains similar to other counties that have learnt to deal with this monsoon type scenario. Or maybe address the treatment of this excessive water prior to pumping it out into our coastline, again 30 years of our money, to invest in better science and engineering to prepare for this issue.

The storm tanks at a WWTW work in this manner.

On a dry day WWTW's are designed to treat 100% of the flow reaching them.(DWF)

But the works can treat fully up to six times dry weather flow,

If the flow exceeds 6DWF it is diverted to storm tanks.

But before that, grit is removed and the flow is screened down to 6mm so that no solids above that size are passed forward.

The storm tanks would normally take a further 3XDWF before they are permitted to discharge.

The flow going to storm tanks is settled (ie has stage 1 treatment) before being passed forward for either full treatment or to the CSO.

However on most occasions there is sufficient capacity in the storm tanks to contain the storm and rather than discharging via the storm overflow to the sea or river the flow is directed back into the treatment works for full treatment.

If Water companies allow discharges to operate illegally they will and have been fined.

Other countries that suffer from tropical storms dig wide and deep monsoon drains which channel every thing usually untreated, to a river or sea ie. open sewers

Statement 3: The Victorian pipes around Portsmouth are over 9 meters deep.

Question 3: I am unsure what the significance of this was, but surely if they are that deep, there is room for extra pipes to be put in above them just to take out the rain. Especially when new houses are built.

Portsmouth is very flat and in order to get the flow from one end of the city to the outfall, pipes needed to be laid at a gradient sufficient that the flow is at self cleansing velocity.

This means that at the top end of the system the crown of a pipe would only be 1.5 m below ground level and would gradually slope down at the lower end of the system to about 9m before the flow was pumped up to the tanks at Eastney

In a previous question I have described where sewers are normally located and how the other infrastructure is likely to be impacted.

Peter Forster

Some more Christmas fun:

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me: I've bought a big, fresh turkey and a Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas laughter could be heard, as we ate our turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations, young and old. We finished up the Christmas Pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried. But we were nice warm inside – we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died, as the children fought and bickered – we had turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love did hardly wince when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter. He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He knew that bird was back again, this time as a - risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew. As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting. With chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips. The guests had gone, the turkey too – we dined on fish and chips.

Albert Einstein had to speak at a Christmas science conference. On the way there, he tells his driver that he looks a bit like him: The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of your speeches, and even though I don't know anything about science, I can remember enough to give the speech in your place." "That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!" So they switch clothes and the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, sits in the audience. But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress and asks Einstein a very difficult question, hoping he won't be able to respond. The driver looks at him and says "Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it."

A policeman stopped a woman on New Year's Eve for exceeding the speed limit. He asked her name. She said: "I'm Mrs. Ladislav Pzpograch Zybkcicraznovskaya and I am visiting my daughter who lives in the Welsh village that is known by all the locals as Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch. The officer put away his summons book and pen, and said: " Happy New Year, but don't let me catch you speeding again."



Dbee's Christmas Quiz:

For those who did not attend the Christmas Lunch at the Brookfield Hotel.

- 1 Can you name the 3 wise men who brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the stable?
- 2 What is Scrooge's first name?
- 3 What famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- 4 In which country did "Eggnog" originate?
- 5 What is the name of a male turkey?
- 6 Where does the name 'Boxing Day' come from?
- 7 What are Pigs in Blankets called in Scotland?
- 8 In the Christmas Movie 'Polar Express' Tom Hanks is the voice of who?
- 9 What traditional Christmas plant supposedly wards off demons?
- 10 Who wrote 'How the Grinch stole Christmas?'
- 11 In Japan, which takeaway food is eaten traditionally at Christmas?
- 12 What is Twelfth night also known as?
- 13 What year was the first Christmas card sent?
- 14 Name the Santas reindeer from this list, including the one with the red nose?
- 15 There are 110 varieties of this common vegetable?
- 16 How many gifts in total, did 'My True Love' give to me?
- 17 Which pantomime character marries Alice Fitzwarren?
- 18 Christmas Island, a territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, is located in which ocean?
- 19 How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol?'
- 20 When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
- 21 Which famous writer wrote the first ever King's Christmas message? (It was for George V in 1932.)
- 22 In the poem 'The Night Before Christmas', visions of what danced in children's heads?

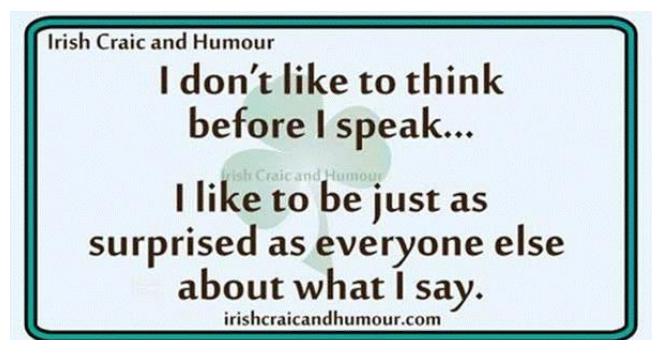
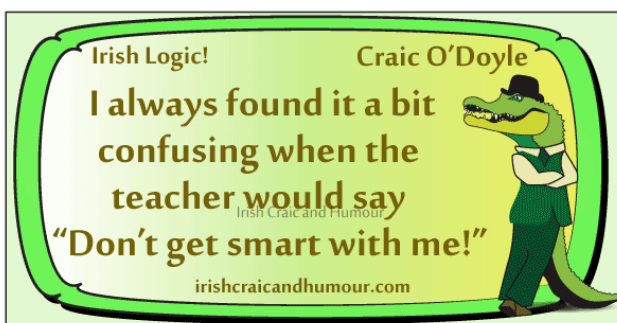
Thank you Dbee!

Do not scroll down straight away or you will see the answers!

ANSWERS:

- 1 Can you name the 3 wise men who brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the stable?
Melchior from Persia, Gaspar (also called 'Caspar' or 'Jaspar') from India, Balthazar from Arabia
- 2 What is Scrooge's first name? Ebenezer
- 3 What famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642? Sir Isaac Newton
- 4 In which country did "Eggnog" originate? England, UK
- 5 What is the name of a male turkey? A Tom or Gobbler
- 6 Where does the name 'Boxing Day' come from? It was when the rich 'boxed up gifts' for the poor, and servants got the day off and took boxes of goodies home to their families
- 7 What are Pigs in Blankets called in Scotland? Kilted Soldiers
- 8 In the Christmas Movie 'Polar Express' Tom Hanks is the voice of who?
The younger hero boy's father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge puppet, Santa and the Narrator (hero boy adult)
- 9 What traditional Christmas plant supposedly wards off demons? Mistletoe
- 10 Who wrote 'How the Grinch stole Christmas?' Dr Seuss
- 11 In Japan, which takeaway food is eaten traditionally at Christmas? Kentucky Fried Chicken
- 12 What is Twelfth night also known as? Epiphany Eve
- 13 What year was the first Christmas card sent? 1843. It's unknown if it actually got there!
- 14 Name the Santas reindeer from this list, including the one with the red nose?
Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Donner, Prancer, Vixen, Rudolph
- 15 There are 110 varieties of this common vegetable? Brussel Sprouts
- 16 How many gifts in total, did 'My True Love' give to me? 364 gifts and a lot of noise and chaos!
- 17 Which pantomime character marries Alice Fitzwarren? Dick Wittington
- 18 Christmas Island, a territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, is located in which ocean? Indian Ocean
- 19 How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol?' Christmas Present, Past, Future and Jacob Marley
- 20 When do the 12 days of Christmas start? Christmas Day
- 21 Which famous writer wrote the first ever King's Christmas message? (It was for George V in 1932.) Sir John Reith
- 22 In the poem 'The Night Before Christmas', visions of what danced in children's heads? Sugar Plums

Irish Humour:



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow@virginmedia.com

See below for the Ems Valley Monthly Planner:

EMS VALLEY U3A MONTHLY PLANNER as at January 2023

Meetings are normally held from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon or from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. If you wish to attend a particular group, you must please first check with the Group Leader/Host/Coordinator.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday meetings are on the next two pages, Thursday, Friday meetings follow.

FOR FULL INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF OUR GROUPS, AND TO CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/emsvalley>

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Week 1	a.m.	Family History for Beginners	Petanque 10.45 Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00	Rambling French (Conversational) <small>Advanced and Intermediate</small> 9.30 – 1.00 Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45
	p.m.	Photography Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30 Book Group 4	Book Group 2 Pilates 2.00 – 3.00	Ancient Greece Crafts 12.00 – 2.00 Wine Group 5 4.30 – 6.30
Week 2	a.m.	Camera Workshops Zoom meeting - 9.30	Gardens Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00	Croquet Group 1 10.00 – 12.00 April to October Pubs and Churches Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45
	p.m.	Drawing Board Games Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30	Family History Jazz Appreciation Italian Beginners 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. Pilates 2.00 – 3.00 Play Reading Group 2	

	Evening	FILM at Emsworth Community Centre		
Week 3	a.m.		Petanque 10.45 Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00	French (Conversational) Advanced and Intermediate 9.30 – 1.00 Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45 Wednesday Lunch Lunchtime
	p.m.	Cycling For Fun Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30 Book Group 3	Wine Appreciation Group 1 3.15 Pilates 2.00 – 3.00 Wine Appreciation Group 3 3.00 – 5.00	Wine Appreciation Group 2
	Evening	Travellers' Tales 7.30 pm (winter)	Wine Appreciation Group 4 7.30 -9.30	
Week 4	a.m.	Roman History Camera Workshops – Field Trips	Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00	Croquet Group 2 10.00 – 12.00 April to October
	p.m.	Spanish Beginners 2.30 – 4.30	Brick Business 2.00-4.00 Play Reading Group 1 Italian Beginners 2.00 – 3.00 Pilates 2.00 – 3.00	Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45 Singing For Fun

SUNDAY LUNCH FOR SOLOS - second Sunday at 12.30 p.m.

The following Groups do not have regular meeting times:

THEATRE VISITS

DAY TRIPPERS

MODEL RAILWAYS

T.R.U.G.S. (The Really Useful Group)

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		THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1	a.m.	French (Mixed Ability)	Spanish Intermediate 09.30-11.30 Bridge Pilates/Yoga 12.15-1.15
	p.m.	Science & Technology Mah Jong 3.00 - 5.00	Local History
Week 2	a.m.	Music Appreciation Birds & Wildlife 9.30 a.m. start	Discussion Bridge
	p.m.	Mah Jong 3.00 - 5.00 Book Group 1	
Week 3	a.m.	French (Mixed Ability)	Spanish Intermediate 9.30 - 11.30 Bridge
	p.m.	Mah Jong 3.00 – 5.00	
Week 4	a.m.		Art Appreciation Bridge
	p.m.	MONTHLY MEETING EMSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH 2.00 pm	