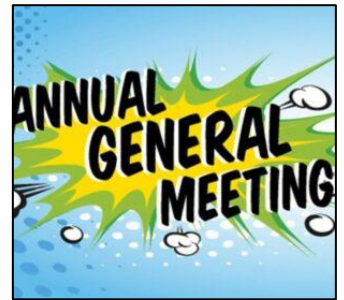




June Newsletter 2023

Largest attendance ever at the AGM!

Friday 25th May 2023 was a notable day for Ems Valley and especially for Anne, our chairman for the past three years. She had been worried that members would not turn out for the important but somewhat mundane business of the AGM. She need not have worried however because a record 157 attended! This lively audience were rewarded with a very short and well-run business section followed by entertainment from Anne's "Singing together" group delivering well know songs that we were encouraged to join in by the screen projected lyrics. I think that the group surprised Anne by first asking to perform and then, by their wholehearted and spirited delivery. It was a fitting way to end her extended term of office, and no doubt the record turnout also was the members way of saying



THANKYOU!

Tea and cakes were then enjoyed before Rod Lipscombe gave us an in depth insight into the Radio and TV show "Mastermind". Rod had been a past contestant and therefore well qualified to tell us some behind the scenes secrets. Rod won his heat, then won the semi-final but did not quite manage the treasured Caithness Glass rose bowl in the final!

It has been a tradition lately to feature interviews with our u3a members. On this occasion, past Chairman Anne interviewed the editor.....

Alan, what are your earliest memories as a child?

I have three: going to bed with Penny, my neighbour, aged I suppose about three – we were both the same age and we topped and tailed in a wooden bunk in the air raid shelter during the war; if we were asleep when the raid finished we were left there until the morning to avoid being woken up again! And... being allowed to climb all over the Bren Gun Carriers of the Canadian soldiers in our road prior to 'D' Day and -- I've forgotten the third....

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in a maternity home in Cosham, but I can't divulge the name as it is the answer to one of my security questions, except I spell it wrong! I lived for the first ten years of my life in a house behind my father's haulage yard in Waterlooville.

I believe your father spent much of his spare time doing charity work in Waterlooville? Tell us about it.

Yes, his forte was old people and Age Concern. He started the "day release" at various centres in Purbrook, Waterlooville and Cowplain. He was also probably the first to organise Chiropody days! It used to amuse us to see him escorting these elderly men and ladies across the road when he was generally much older than they were. He also started the "Stewart Borrow Welfare Minibus" which I inherited (the running of it) on his death. He was also very supportive of the British Legion.

You have also spent a lot of your life raising money for good causes? Tell us more.

Well, it came in spasms really – it started in Round Table - I was lucky to be a founder member of the Waterlooville and District Round Table. We discovered that you could raise huge funds by collecting junk. Well, you could also refer to it as bric a brac. We would wait until a high street shop was at the end of its lease and then request a rent free week from the freeholder. And we would then commence our collecting. We would run the shop for a week, and the most memorable part was to take a photograph of the length of the queue on the first morning, prior to 9.00am! After many such “shops” we learned to save the best offerings and hold a separate “Antiques Auction”, with a well known Antiques man to do the auction. We raised several thousand pounds this way, which was a lot of money because remember, this was a long time ago, in the



late sixties or early seventies!

Pic above: a Wine One Barbecue in the Friends of the Hospital Gardens – it seems we are alone, not too sure where the other sixty were hiding?

When I reached the dreaded age of 40, one had to leave Round Table as it was a young man’s organisation. But I took my newly honed skills(!) as an Antiques expert (actually I cannot tell the difference between Chippendale and Carlton ware!) to my home village of Denmead and started again. The secret was finding people to help you – people who did know their antiques! I did five more auctions each one getting larger than the last. We introduced 50/50 which enabled the donor to receive 50% back. The Tennis Club, the Community Centre, the Memorial Hall, and the Church all in turn benefitted. The financial result of the last – which enabled the Denmead Church extension to commence – was staggering, but people were very generous because of the cause.

It all sounds very easy in retrospect, but the secret lay in making certain that EVERY house was contacted, with the initial leaflet and then the subsequent pick up. Nowadays charities post a plastic bag through the door and might call back if there is anything outside. We made certain that we spoke to every occupant in our village!

‘Showville’ was perhaps my best fundraising idea and it started in 1971 and finished about ten years later. On August Bank Holiday Monday, we would hold this event (with Round Table) in the fields which now comprise the industrial estate at Waterlooville. If you look at our current Emsworth Show, you will get an idea of the flavour but we concentrated more on the “spectacular” and less on the dahlias! We always had the Red Devils Parachute group to open the show, and main rink events had to showcase the ‘wow’ factor. The most amazing event that we held time and time again was the JCB obstacle race. It was free to us, and the crowds loved the spectacle of these giant machines levering themselves over imaginary rivers and ravines and then picking up an egg and depositing it in a basket without breakage. But undoubtedly my coup was finding the dare devil man who would climb a sixty feet high tower, set fire to himself, then order us below to pour petrol on a four feet deep tiny tub of water below. As he jumped, he would arch his back to enable him to belly flop into the water, extinguishing the flames with the splash. I remember well – we paid him £60.00 in pound notes each time he came! ***See pic below to prove I am not exaggerating.....***

The charities that benefitted from “Showville” were, as far as I remember, Rowans Hospice, a new Mencap building, a new scout hut, a new van for the RVS and more. We raised big totals and the whole of Waterlooville and surrounding area attended. Happy days indeed! Health and Safety would not allow such terrible goings on today!!

Describe your working careers (I know you had two!)

I started with Esso Petroleum in Millbank London as an office boy, 16 and threequarters. After a year I was elevated to the cashiers dept. sending the Seamen’s allotments to their dependants. Then two years National Service. Age 21, I received an offer from an uncle to manage his agricultural contracting business. It involved grass drying and grain drying and storage in depots in the Midlands, West Country and Pembrokeshire. It involved a lot of travelling but I

was young! I soon found that travelling from our head office in Hampshire to our furthestmost depot in Pembrokeshire wasted a whole day! No motorways in those days. So I would leave, after work at 6.00pm, and the hotel would let me in at midnight, but a day saved! The business was very profitable but unfortunately, I could not agree with my uncle on the way we should take the company forward. (I wanted to invest in what is now called “logistics”. He, being 65, wanted to indulge in his inventions that I had never seen come to fruition - let alone work...)

So I changed to being a Builders Merchant, working for the family business in Waterlooville. My father was a haulage contractor with sand quarries. My older brother and I wished to gradually convert to a general Builders Merchant. Dad was of an age where he was happy to give us our heads and retire. We first had a large three storey warehouse constructed and then a further DIY self service store. Our customers were builders, plumbers and DIY enthusiasts. We later specialised in built in kitchens and bathrooms. It was a boom time for these trades. I think that I can safely say that I was the first business in Hampshire to sell a flat pack kitchen unit – way back in 1968. We employed about eighty staff and were trading well. But around 1990, there was a national recession and two other changes were taking place in our industry. B and Q and the like were coming very much to the fore, and the national big five builders merchants were buying up smaller competitors in order to become the number one trade supplier in the country. We decide to sell to Jewsons.

I was 57 and not ready for retirement. I met an old friend who was then 71 and looking to retire from his wine business. I knew absolutely nothing about wine but it sounded good! He said he would teach me the ropes and then retire. But we got on so well working together that he stayed 6 years and I had the most enjoyable years of my business life in our little partnership! In retrospect, this time and experience gave me the opportunity to carry the wine interest into my retirement. (and I still run my wine group some twenty years later!)

What made you join Ems Valley u3a?

I had by this time in my life, met Diana and we planned to set up home together. Her preference was Emsworth and we moved into Park Crescent in 2005 where we shared a driveway with Richard and Sandie Swaine! Diana told me to attend a meeting of “a steering committee for a new u3a”, she had spotted a little sign on a lamppost. I attended and just could not stop my arm constantly going up every time they asked for volunteers.....

Diana’s sudden death must have been difficult?

Yes, no warning whatsoever. But, looking back, we were fortunate to have had a most wonderful seventeen years together, we met when we were both close to retirement and we took the opportunity to travel, travel and travel! And amongst all that travel we organised more travel by way of holidays each year for her Tangent group and my wine group. Fortunately, in this world, you cannot take away memories!



Pic above: My favourite wine destination in Italy, I took my wine group there on two occasions – preparing for the evening tasting with Guido the proprietor.

What have you done that you are most proud of?

Not sure - but what gave me great pleasure more recently were our ‘Call My Wine Bluff’ evenings and of course my ten wine trips abroad. (but, of course, I should have said editing the Ems Valley u3a newsletter!)



Any ambitions yet to be fulfilled?

Yes, one big ambition – to be able to see my doctor again - and have a chat face to face...

What would you take to the proverbial desert island?

It has to be the bottomless self refilling bottle of a rather good red wine.

When did you last drive on a *straight road*?



'If you have ever wondered 'what the Romans did for us' - your wait is over. On Monday June 26 in Mountford 3 at the ECA, a presentation to The Ancient Roman Group will cover Roman Britain with the main focus on their road building. How was it planned, surveyed, engineered and who built them? We still enjoy the benefits of Roman road network today and you can learn about the British cities who owe their very existence to 'the roads': Eboracum (York), Lindum Colonia (Lincoln), Noviomagus (Chichester) and Londinium' If you would like to attend, please contact Richard Galloway as the capacity of that room is limited.

Garden Group visit to Fittleworth House Gardens 9 May 2023

“It was a wonderful venue”. “I was inspired”

“Such an enjoyable morning” “Utterly fabulous”

These were just a few of the comments made about our visit to Fittleworth House Gardens on Tuesday 9th May.



Fittleworth House sits in a conservation area near Pulborough. The current house dates from the 18th century and has been in the same family ownership for over fifty years. Mark Saunders has been head gardener for 25 years and is assisted by his son. He gave us a guided walk, telling us about their methods of gardening – ‘no dig’ and ‘organic only’ are not a thing at Fittleworth! Let nature rule is the motto and it clearly works wonders.

The main features of the garden are a fully productive working walled kitchen garden, growing a wide range of flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs. There is a smaller walled area containing the large glasshouse, potting sheds and cold frames. The wavy brick paths running both sides of the vegetable borders will be home to 150 dahlias (presently in the greenhouse) together with other colourful summer plants. The Georgian house (not open) is covered by a glorious Wisteria, and nearby stands one of the

most magnificent Cedar of Lebanon in all of the South of England. There is a tranquil stream flowing from the top of the garden through rocks and beautiful plantings, creating a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere.

We were surprised to learn it was not a natural stream but man made, built over the last few years.

If you would like to visit Fittleworth, when it is in full bloom, it is open again on 14 and 21 June, 12 and 19 July and again on 19 August between 14:00 and 17:00.

Ronnie Tyler

A day out with The Day Trippers To Mercedes-Benz World and Brooklands Museum.

When we meet to plan our next few outings there are inevitably a few suggestions which are out of the comfort zone for some of us and so it was with the proposal to visit Mercedes-Benz World and Brooklands Museum. Not being a particular 'motor-head' these were not places which would have instantly been on my radar but such was the enthusiasm of those familiar with the sites I thought it might be an interesting day out and chance to meet new U3A members.

I need not have worried about my lack of technical knowledge as throughout the day we came across the most welcoming and interesting staff and volunteers.

We started our day at Mercedes World, which is right next to the Brooklands circuit and skidpan. Eleven of us managed to negotiate the A3/A25 construction site and meet up in the cafe where I was amused to find branding even went down to the breakfast baps!



Simon, who had organised the day and was familiar with the building, suggested we start on the top floor and work down which meant we started in the AMG display. Feeling a bit overawed, I thought that asking what 'AMG' stood for might be a good way to start and the young lady I asked couldn't have been keener to explain the history of that marque. Apparently two engineers Hans Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher from Grossaspach initially developed the prototype in the mid-sixties and the engines are still constructed by hand and feature the name of the technician responsible. They are assembled in a remarkable four and a half hours. Our enthusiastic



member of staff even went to collect a key so she could open the bonnet and show us what she had been so proudly describing. On the next floor down there are examples of many of the cars in the Mercedes range from an A Class to high performance racing cars and the new EQ electric range. We also saw an interesting 'deconstructed' racing car with all the various parts strung separately from the ceiling. Every car had details of fuel economy, tax and insurance band and other details, but not the price! Well, you know what they say about that!

Before we left we watched a short film about the development of the brand, then spent time admiring the historic models on the ground floor together with an interesting timeline about the history of the company including the only photograph of said 'Mercedes' sitting at the wheel of a skeletal early model. Her father had been at the forefront of marketing the brand at the start of the last century. Pausing to watch the cars being put through their paces round the racetrack, we headed to the nearby Brooklands Museum where Simon had negotiated a group booking plus Concorde 'flights' for us all. After a snack in the rather basic cafe, we assembled under Concorde's wings for our experience. From my point of view, it was a little underwhelming but we did learn some things which made me think that the plane perhaps could have done with a little more testing! We heard that it got up to speeds of one mile in two and a half seconds (faster than a bullet) when at Mach 2, and took off at an angle of 16 degrees meaning that an additional tail wheel was needed in order to stop the tail dragging along the runway. There was also an issue of air intake at higher speeds and altitudes which meant some adjustments had to be made to reduce this. The nose had to be able to pivot in order for the pilot to see the runway,

but most worrying was the discovery that at higher speeds and altitudes the metal bodywork expanded a little, leaving small gaps in the structure.



Once on board the plane there were various videos, maps and displays, then when we were all seated, another 'simulation' video. As we left, we were all given a certificate to say we'd been on Concorde! Our particular guide was a little unwell and did not really seem disposed to answer many questions, sadly.

However next to Concorde were some other decommissioned planes two of which were VC10s and the colourful one had belonged to the Sultan of Oman. Here we hit gold as in the cockpit was the most interesting and amenable volunteer pilot. He explained every last control to the extent that I almost felt I could step up in an emergency and at least do something helpful! The cabins in the plane were plush gold velvet and above the wings were two bedrooms with a double bed in each, one for the Sultan and one for his mother who travelled with him. He never married. The whole plane was a glimpse into a life of luxury.

To my surprise one of the most interesting sheds to visit was the one with the Barnes Wallis' Stratosphere Chamber. As we

entered it all looked very technical but immediately a volunteer stepped up and gave us all the information we needed to interpret what was in front of us. Ships or plane parts were loaded into the chamber and the huge structure you see in front of you as you enter would then slide across and seal the chamber whereupon whatever was inside could be subjected to all kinds of atmospheric stresses and strains. Upstairs there is a control room and inside a fascinating photographic display of various structures being tested including boats totally covered in ice. Obviously in this shed there are also examples of Barnes Wallis' various bombs including the famous bouncing one which seems to have been strapped under the aircraft wings and released with a spinning motion. One could have spent a couple of hours in the Bus Collection, but it was in the Aircraft Factory where we met our next enthusiastic volunteer, a lady who explained the development of military planes from basic wood covered by linen to, as engines became more powerful, heavier metal frames and cladding. At the far end of this display was a Hawker Hurricane, the type of plane made at Brooklands which had brought down more enemy planes than any other. We spotted one of our party sitting at the controls!



On our way to the Racing Legends shed we paused to look at the two McLaren racing cars and were surprised to



find a third full sized one, totally made of 280,000 Lego bricks!

The final shed we visited took us back to vehicles of all types, starting with a collection of bicycles including one owned originally by Conan Doyle, a photograph taken around 1890 showed him and his wife sitting proudly on a sort of large two person tricycle. It didn't look too dissimilar to the original Mercedes we had seen earlier in the day!



Walking through the exhibition we passed an amazing collection of motorbikes, including sidecars (one originally priced at £150) and then onto the collection of racing cars largely associated with Brooklands. They nearly all looked unnecessarily large and cavernous compared to their modern equivalents.

So there you have it, a summary of our Day Trippers April Day out. As you can tell, the technical details largely passed me by, but I found a lot to interest me, a lot to learn, and had great day out with fellow U3A members. It would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and organisation of Simon and Steve, thank you both.

And, to fellow U3A members, why not come and join us next time? You never know what you don't know.....



Sally Adcock

CAMEO stands for 'Come And Meet Each Other'

This Group is now up and running and there is already a proposal to start a further CAMEO Group which will meet in the afternoons.

Meetings are informal get-togethers for coffee/tea and a chat.

The new afternoon group will meet on the FIRST TUESDAY AFTERNOON of the month, starting in June.

To register your interest please reply to this message through the web site and full details will be sent to you when they have been finalised.

Ann Sims

Ed: I understand that yet another CAMEO group is now in the offing – what a great new idea.....



FINAL VISIT BY PUBS AND CHURCHES GROUP



The Group had a brilliant visit to St James' Church, Birdham, on one of our few sunny days so far this Spring. The oldest part of the church dates from the 10th century, and the Nave is entirely of 14th century construction. There are crosses carved in the lintel of the south door by medieval pilgrims to the shrine of St Richard of Chichester, who called to pray in the church. The small door in the north wall is believed to have been to allow the Devil to escape at Baptisms.



There is a beautiful stained glass window given by David Graham-Wood and depicts fishing, a

reference to St Wilfrid who taught starving local inhabitants to fish for food. There are two bells, one being early 14th century and the other dating to 1695. The names of most of the Rectors since 1256 are recorded on the south wall of the Nave.

The churchyard contains a number of really interesting old gravestones dating from the early 18th century, and the unusual old twisted tree outside the south door is a *Macrocarpa*, holding 14 different species of birds and bats (*see pic above*). We think that this tree is over 350 years old!



Anne Powell

Pubs And Churches – What’s next?

The Pubs and Churches group had its final meeting on Tuesday 10th May, as you can see from the report above. We had an interesting talk from Sophie a support worker at the church and finished our day by having lunch at the Bosham Inn. We were all very sad that it was our last visit but it was a lovely day.

We started the group in 2021 as we were fairly new to this area and we discovered there were many old historical churches which we enjoyed visiting and wondered if other people might enjoy them too. And they did. We started our group with 20 people and the rest is history!

This year (2022-2023) we have visited St Peter and St Mary in Fishbourne where we met Mother Jessica - a wonderful woman who is responsible for two parishes - Apuldram and Fishbourne - has two young children and gets about on her bike. Lunch was at the Bosham Inn.

We have also visited St Peter's church in East Marden - a very small church in a very small village. Lunch was at the Victoria Inn West Marden. Next was St Thomas the Apostle in Bedhampton with lunch at The Wheelwrights Arms in Havant. In January 2023 we went to St Mary's in Funtington where we were met by Father Andrew. The church had a large bequest which has allowed the interior to be brought up to date by fitting new lighting with movement sensors and they have installed solar panels to provide electricity and allow excess electricity to be sold back to the utility company.

We ventured a bit further away for our next visit to St Peter's church on Hayling Island. Again, a lovely church in a lovely setting. Lunch at the Kings Arms in Emsworth.

Next was a visit to St Peter's church at Racton where the problem was - would we all fit in to the very small carpark. We did and were given a talk by the church organist who lived in the house next door to the church. Lunch was at the Barley Mow in Walderton.

In April we again ventured to go further and visited St Mary and St Gabriel in South Harting where we were met by Simon, husband of the vicar. He insisted on taking us out to the graveyard even though a howling gale was blowing and proceeded to tell us of the scandals which had taken place in the village when it was a centre for people involved in the arts of the time and who are all now buried there. He was a wonderful guide. Lunch was at The White Hart on the village.

Our last visit was to Birdham.

The pubs we have visited have been excellent. The food has always been very good, service excellent and the servers have been cheerful and welcoming.

Peter and I have really enjoyed the group and the people we have met at the churches - some of them have been real characters who have added to the enjoyment of our visit but we will miss above all our lovely group and we thank them all for their kindness and support. We have decided to “retire” but:

If there is anyone out there who would like to continue with a new Pubs and Churches group do get in touch and we will be very glad to help if required.

Margaret and Peter Goldfarb

May Monthly Meeting of the Model Rail Group

A bit of a model railway imposter is John's outfit: more of a working museum piece from the 1950s than a model. Nevertheless, Les and Peter willingly volunteered to give it a double-operator run on 12th May, it not being a strike day on this network. Now, should you have an inkling of how present-day model trains work, many congratulations, but that would not help you one iota with this kit.

That did not stop John from shamelessly plagiarising Les's idea of creating a schedule. Written in arcane post-war language, it is intelligible only with the aid of a fluent interpreter, and, by amazing happenstance, one was immediately to hand.

So, the two new drivers set to the task with enthusiasm and mastered the system in no time at all. The little branch line train departed Aldenham main line, and later arrived at Eastoke halt. All on time: how could it be otherwise? We can say the pair did awfully well, with excellent communication, and, having stabled (for that is what one calls it on the tracks: nothing so vulgar as parked) their locomotive back in the engine yard they looked justifiably pleased with themselves. Did we have fun? I rather think so.

Anyone else want to join the group?

John Brook



**Every picture tells a story: Playreading One and Two join together to thank Angela Baldry for writing her pantomime about the evil “Rumpleskiltskin”, although in this picture Kate looks positively benign!
From the April Monthly Meeting.**



DAY TRIPPERS KENT ADVENTURE on 21 JUNE 2023

Greetings all, We are pleased to announce our next outing.

Group members Mary Anne Mathews and Annette Wood have arranged a full and interesting day out in Kent for us. Something for everyone! An historic church, a garden and a historic National Trust property.

There are only 15 spaces available!!

Cost for the day is £30.00 for NT members or an additional £16.00 if you are not a NT Member
Be sure to bring a packed lunch/picnic.

Make payment to:
Mr. S. Gorban
HSBC
Sort code 40-45-22
Acct No 11658476

It would be helpful if you quote 'KENT' followed by your surname as the reference for your payment.

The itinerary is as follows:

Meet at the Waterside United Reformed Church Car Park, corner of Bath Road and the A259, where you may leave your car, for a 9:15 departure by mini bus. We aim to return by 6:30.

We Travel first to All Saints Church in Tudeley. It is the only church in the world that has all of its windows in stained glass designed by Marc Chagall.

Annette has arranged a tour and a talk at 11:00 to better inform us on the artist, the windows and history of the church. Toilets will be available for our use.

Our next destination is a 20 minute drive to the beautiful gardens at New Barns Cottage, in West Malling, Kent, the home of Mr & Mrs Anthony Drake, who were neighbours of Mary Anne for over 25 years. Anthony has spent the last 45 years converting a field, which went right up to the back door, to the beautiful groomed garden it is now.

We will be picnicking in the garden, where cover will be available if the weather is inclement. Be sure to bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.

Departure from the garden to Ightham Mote, Ivy Hatch, Kent, will be at approximately 2:00pm.

Ightham Mote, and its gardens, a National Trust Property, (see pic on right) is a stunningly beautiful medieval moated Manor House. The architectural writer John Newman described Ightham Mote as the most complete small medieval manor house in the country.



We plan to depart for Emsworth at 4:15 and hope to be back by 6:30.

Hope to see you on the day,

Mary Anne, Annette, Simon and Steve

Rose Hardy Nursery Whitchurch – 17th May visit

Graham Mortimer (see pic red shirt) suggested and organised this Day Trip. 20 of us attended. We met at the Nursery and were shown into a huge barn and given biscuits and drinks. It was lovely to see Swifts nesting in the rafters and flying about. Then we had a short walk to a Greenhouse for a 10.30 start Talk: 'Early Summer Flowering Perennials' given by Rosy. Plants were on a table (see pic) and Rosy took each one in turn and gave a comprehensive explanation and demonstration about them, then placed them on the ground according to their preferences, characteristics and care. e.g. Mediterranean so likes sun, well drained 'poor' soil. I learned that 'part shade' means ½ day in shade and ½ day in sun (afternoon sun preferred). I thought it meant 'dappled shade'. Another interesting point: Rosy was keen to tell us that honey bees are a Commercial Crop, for example, they will take all the pollen from a field of rape. That's fine, but encouraging them into your garden is not such a good idea as they will take all the pollen from your flowers/plants. This means that other Pollinators cannot do their job. Many of them have specialised proboscis, so are limited on which plants they can pollinate. According to Rosy, we need these, unsung heroes. Bio-diversity rules O.K. Rosy was obviously knowledgeable and loved her plants. As someone who attended most of her talks said to me 'you can ask her anything, and she'll know the answer. We had a half time break (more drink & biscuits) and an end break. Of course some of us succumbed to buying plants...



From the Nursery it was a short way to the 'Watership Down' pub/restaurant. It was charming as you'd expect and had a rabbit themed décor. (Rabbit was not on the menu!) The formula was that we all pre-ordered our lunch choice from a very restricted menu. Our 'party' took over the conservatory, and even with open windows and blinds on the ceiling it was pretty warm and we were glad the sky quickly clouded over. Much better! In all, it was a most interesting, entertaining and enjoyable Trip. Thanks to Graham for organising it.

Kate Wiggins

Crafts march on!



Angela Blunden writes that the Craft meeting this month concentrated on painting T-shirts and stamping, cards, while a few of the others were knitting and doing Tapestry work. She says that it was a lovely session! Picture left: Ronnie Tyler with her paints...



LOCAL HISTORY go "Behind the scenes of Chichester Cathedral" - 28/4/23

Led up a small spiral stone staircase, we emerged in the Chapter house where in mediaeval times, church business was conducted. Now the choir practises here, but in the old wooden panelling a secret lurks! Could we find the hidden chamber full of the church silver? No we couldn't - but Cromwell's troops did and looted it all. Then we visited the 12th century Bishop's Palace including a chapel which was built after a fire that started at the medieval Sloe Fair. It destroyed much of the original cathedral! The walls are decorated in interesting murals from when it was built and one was from 1953 by Hans Feibusch, a German Jewish artist who had to escape WW2 and was championed by Bishop George Bell.

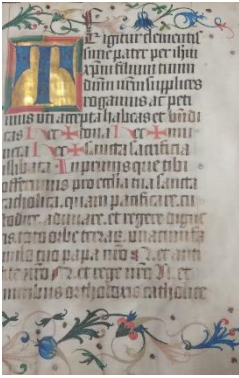
The highlight of our tour, for me, was visiting the library. We got hands on examining the Kenilworth missal from the late 13th century, complete with one very contrite face where it's presumed a monk had missed out an important section. Oops!

We also saw the beautifully decorated illuminated pages of the 1481 Benedictine Missal. In the library are 16 fascinating corbels. Perhaps the mason was suffering from toothache as he worked high up on the scaffolding, see left below. A lovely tour was had by all.



Margaret Melhuish

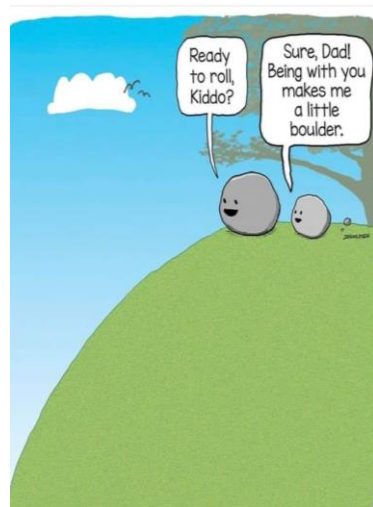
Members of the Local History group thank Margaret for organising this most interesting visit. Two more pics below...



Thanks go to Sandie Swaine for this March photo of the moon bisecting Venus and Jupiter. The BBC Science Focus Magazine quoted: "The conjunction of Venus and Jupiter is underway, as Venus is rapidly approaching the granddaddy of the Solar System". They continue with: "On 1 and 2 March, Venus and Jupiter would have been less than one degree apart in the sky (as seen from Earth). Any one know how that translates to actual miles if I was in my spacecraft??"



Paddy walks into the site office carrying a flask.
 Murphy:
 "What you got there then?"
 Paddy:
 "Tis a new flask"
 Murphy:
 "What's it do then?"
 Paddy:
 "It keeps hot tings hot and cold tings cold"
 Murphy:
 "So what you got in it then?"
 Paddy:
 "Two cups of coffee and an ice cream"

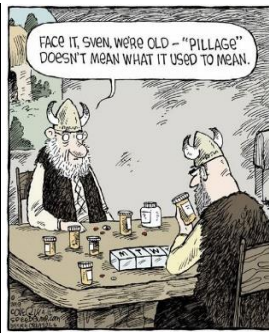


They are now saying that golf gives you big thighs..





You never appreciate what you have till it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.



Try to remember, the greener grass across the fence may be due to a septic tank issue.



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow@virginmedia.com