



**March 2024 newsletter**

## **Fascinating Talk on Medical Research at February STEM Group Meeting.**

We were given a talk on The Principles of Medical Research and how to Interpret the results, by an eminent specialist in his field, Nabil Louis, FRCS, ex Consultant Surgeon with the MOD, later Consultant Surgeon ENT Surgeon at Whipps Cross Hospital in London. Nabil was subsequently a medical advisor for the Army before retiring in 2020, and he now resides in Emsworth. (How on earth does our illustrious leader, Geoff Whalley, persuade these amazing people to come to talk to our group?)

Nabil explained just some of the areas studied by various research groups.



Case studies - why do some smokers get lung cancer, some not? Some non smokers get it - why?

Retrospective studies – researchers looking back over many cases and identifying a pattern that hadn't been noticed before.

Meta-analysis - very powerful International studies, involving re-analysis of all the studies done worldwide on any particular drug or topic, recalculating overall results.

Most interesting and valuable were the Randomised Control Studies , using carefully chosen groups, to

avoid bias - new drugs given to half of them and placebos to the other. Results are then analysed in detail, including info on those who'd fallen by the wayside and were using the drugs for various reasons. Then interesting calculations are done – the metrics were fascinating and demonstrated to us by Nabil – of what effect these new drugs had. Are they worth the cost? Worth the side effects? Are the results better than what we already have? Another topic covered was Screening. The diseases screened for must be common and serious, and the medical profession must absolutely understand the illness being screened for. Do the benefits of the screening outweigh the cost and negatives – screening itself creates stress. So every test must have sensitivity (to reliably identify the disease amongst those screened, in most cases) and specificity ( to not cause alarm from false positives). It's a delicate balance requiring judgement - or many of us won't turn up when called to be screened.

There were lots of questions from our group, both during his talk and after, everyone keen to understand in more detail the process Nabil had explained.

It was an excellent talk, giving us great insight of the long trials all drugs have to go through to be approved for use. And our group are now better placed to understand – or are now more likely to question – when we read in the newspaper that some new wonder drug reduces the chance of death by 30%. Really? Does it?

**Our next meeting is the first Thursday in March**, a talk on Fungi, delayed due to illness.

Planning is underway for the rest of 2024 programme.

All Ems Valley u3a members are welcome to attend our meetings - just let us know via the messenger bird on the website or email to: [geoff.whalley@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.whalley@gmail.com).

**Pam Palmer**

**Hilly Sloan – Blue badge guide from London and Windsor now “Romans to Counterculture CHICHESTER” see next page!**

Local History group member Malcolm Smith has arranged for Hilly Sloan to visit us at 2.00pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Her talk is titled "CHICHESTER - Romans to modern counterculture". They meet in Mountford Three and visitors are welcome, subject to a small £4.00 fee.



Hilly states on her web site: My love of history, art and culture was first sparked when I was a European tour guide a long time ago. I then became a Blue Badge guide of London, Windsor and Eton, before moving down to Chichester and the magnificent South Downs. As a history graduate, I am passionate about bringing the

past alive and love using the context of major historical events to describe what was happening on a local scale. I work as a guide at Goodwood House, conduct a wide variety of walking tours and also entertain groups with specialist talks on many aspects of local history. A heavenly day for me is to stride out on the South Downs with my dogs, imagining as I look down towards Chichester, how life would have been in centuries gone by.



Non members are welcome to attend this talk, please bring the £4.00 visitor fee.

## SECOND INSTALLMENT OF GWEN BROWN's A View from a member.....

Well, to continue: I heard from a very dear friend of whom I'd known for more than 30 years or so that she was going to join the Ems Valley U3A. I was born locally and didn't think Emsworth was ever in a valley but anyway she was always into everything and enjoyed life so I listened to what was going to be her next adventure. University of the Third Age she explains. Well right away I didn't like the sound of that. UNIVERSITY, not something that spoke of enjoyment to me. Not at my time of life. Call me dull but I had no ambitions of expanding my brain with any Open University courses or such like. I was still busy tackling the University of Life and in this fast changing technical world I felt I was still in the slow lane. I was done with all the companies compulsory IT courses in Milton Keynes or some other back and beyond concrete urban complex; however, she went on to assure me it wasn't what it sounded. I suggested she go ahead and joined; attended for a few months then reported back to me before I made the commitment. Well that was the plan but then life doesn't always go to plan and before my friend could give me the lowdown she took another journey neither of us had expected. Sadly this one was only one way. In all the years I had known her she never as much as suffered a cold and then DVT took her away. After time I started to think about this U3A she was so keen to join and felt it my duty as her best friend to go along and find out. And so that is how I became a member of The Ems Valley U3A. Little did I know then that my lovely friend who could no longer be alongside had opened a door for me so I could discover so many other dear friends. That was all so long ago now, 15 or 16 years have slipped by and I've dipped my toe into quite a few experiences. Art Appreciation, Travellers' Tales, Creative Writing which I thoroughly enjoyed but could never find the time to get the job done. I've already mentioned Wine Appreciation One. I believe there's 4 more Wine Appreciation Groups up and running now which shows how popular it is, no one leaves. It's great when you have the opportunity to give different groups a go and at this point I would like to sincerely thank those of you that make that possible. For giving up your time to share with others your expertise / experiences. If it wasn't for you a great many of us just wouldn't have had the fun that



we get from being members. Of course it doesn't always work out that the group is what you thought it would be. If that's the case don't continue to attend just to save face. Politely take your leave and move on.

I have a couple of friends that I've know from school who are the same age as me and not members. They frequently ask me whether being a member of a Third Age Group makes me feel old. I've noticed they're inclined to wrinkle up their noses when they ask this. They just don't get it do they! ,I have so much fun, attend interesting talks, I've laughed with friends and some I've cried with but all in the name of living life to the full.

You can have a two way conversation with these new friends, conversations you understand. Yes it's good to be around young people but let's be honest a great deal of what they say you have to smile and nod as if you've understood completely then try to remember said words to look them up on Google when you get home. Thank God for Google.

There's quite a bit of pressure in this fast moving tech world we find ourselves compelled to take on board but it can have its funnier moments. When my grandson was just a few months old (he's now 6 years and a bit, that bit is very important to him) I was introduced to Babysitting and Alexa. Now babysitting, a doddle and my first one I was so excited about. My daughter handed over an A4 list of things to do or not do. I didn't mention that I'd brought her up all ok and her sister too but I was tempted. I mean A4 – what ! Anyway, I got along just fine, baby well behaved and nursery all cosy and warm. I'd been told about giving commands to this gizmo that sat in the corner and when I



wanted to come out of the nursery I was to say 'turn off the bedside lamp...' Apparently the wall switch was in a difficult place and this would be the only easy way to do it. Well everything was going tickety boo until I forgot the Gizmos name. Could I turn the lamp off? In the end I spent apprehensive minutes moving the cot gradually and unplugging the lamp. I'd never heard of the name Alexa why it couldn't have been George or Katherine.

My daughters, bless them Whatsapp me often and for some months now one of them has often signed off with GB. Well that happens to be my initials not hers so eventually I Googled it and it means 'Good Bye....obviously ?

Another was; lol' I feel quite up to date now when I use it –

Laugh out loud. Though I can't understand whatever happened to Hee hee or Ho ho!. Then there's ICBW (it could be worse) could it ? Now while I've got some of your attention can anyone out there enlighten me on the meaning of IYKWIM that's really got me foxed. My humble list of abbreviations stop at PTO, RSVP, ETA and of course xx.

I think that's a good place to stop now.

p.s. Why did you become a U3A member ? Perhaps you should tell us.

## Last Call for the Kings Theatre history visit!

Just a reminder of this outing.

So far we have 14 people. We can take a few more. Hope you can make it!!

**STOP PRESS: REGRET NOW FULL**

**DUE TO LATE TAKE UP!**

A HISTORY TOUR OF KINGS THEATRE on 11 MARCH, 2024.

Join us for a great morning learning the history of our beautiful Kings Theatre



10:30 arrival for tea, coffee and biscuits.

Please use the entrance located on the corner of Albert Road with Exmouth Road, Southsea. For SatNav please use 22-28 Albert Road, PO5 2QJ. Parking on the side streets near the theatre, but be sure there are no residents only parking signage. Cost per person is £6:50

We will car pool so please indicate if you are willing to drive or if you wish transportation. Following our guided tour lasting 1 /2 hours, we lunch together at the Vaults, across the street from the theatre.

**Simon and Steve**

## **The Down House, Itchen Abbas – The new GARDENS team do well!**

The new Garden Group team organisers did us proud for the first of the 2024 garden visits, even down to arranging the warmest, sunniest day we could have wished for in early February. On Monday 12 February, (a slight calendar alteration to the usual Tuesday) we visited The Down House in Itchen Abbas.

Mark Porter and his wife Jackie bought The Down House in 2001 which came with 3 acres of uncultivated garden and about 5 acres of field beyond. Much to their delight and surprise, the first spring saw carpets of early spring bulbs, snowdrops, aconites and crocus. (below)

In 2004 after seeing Chris Beardshaw on “The Flying Gardener” TV series they employed him to advise on design. He added the pleached hornbeams around the lawn, yew hedges at the back of the garden and radiating hawthorn hedges in the potager.

Following tea/coffee and a delicious selection of homemade cakes, Mark gave us a guided tour, starting with the small vineyard of 250 vines planted about 15 years ago. Red, white and rose wine is produced solely for family consumption. (see below)

The Down House, Itchen Abbas - Review

The new Garden Group team organisers did us proud for the first of the 2024 garden visits, even down to arranging the warmest, sunniest day we could have wished for in early February. On Monday 12 February, (a slight calendar alteration to the usual Tuesday) we visited The Down House in Itchen Abbas.

Mark Porter and his wife Jackie bought The Down House in 2001 which came with 3 acres of uncultivated garden and about 5 acres of field beyond. Much to their delight and surprise, the first spring saw carpets of early spring bulbs, snowdrops, aconites and crocus.

In 2004 after seeing Chris Beardshaw on “The Flying Gardener” TV series they employed him to advise on design. He added the pleached hornbeams around the lawn, yew hedges at the back of the garden and radiating hawthorn hedges in the potager.

Following tea/coffee and a delicious selection of homemade cakes, Mark gave us a guided tour, starting with the small vineyard of 250 vines planted about 15 years ago. Red, white and rose wine is produced





solely for family consumption. Mark told us his son ordered 100 bottles for his wedding reception!

After being shown the potager, we went on to an amazing red, yellow and orange border comprising many dogwood species – *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' (red), *Cornus alba* Kesselringii' (purple/black), *Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea' (yellow/green), *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' (coral pink/red) together with the tall willow *Salix alba* 'Britzensis' (orange).

Then we walked through the snowdrop, crocus and aconite area passing the most fragrant *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postill'.

The house has a large terraced area, complete with a rectangular fish pond and steps down to the lawn, with a rope garden and fountain just beyond. The rope garden has a selection of roses, which will be well worth coming back to see in August when the garden is open to the public through the NGS.

Mark and Jackie do the gardening themselves with the help of a man to cut the hedges and Herbie I, Herbie II and Herbie III, the robot lawnmowers. During the winter months, the robot mowers live in



the warm greenhouse with geranium cuttings, seed trays and a good selection of agapanthus, all lovingly cared for with constant classic music – Mark said it kept them happy.

Mark is a Member of Council of the Royal Horticultural Society and Trustee of the National Garden Scheme. Mark is also the Hampshire County Organiser and has opened his garden and vineyard under the scheme for the past nine years. He is also the Chairman of the Itchen Valley Garden Society and gives lectures on designing winter gardens, establishing a

vineyard along with winemaking and judging at RHS Show Gardens. Mark told us his son ordered 100 bottles for his wedding reception!

After being shown the potager, we went on to an amazing red, yellow and orange border comprising many dogwood species – *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' (red), *Cornus alba* Kesselringii' (purple/black), *Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea' (yellow/green), *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' (coral pink/red) together with the tall willow *Salix alba* 'Britzensis' (orange).

Then we walked through the snowdrop, crocus and aconite area passing the most fragrant *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postill'.

The house has a large terraced area, complete with a rectangular fish pond and steps down to the lawn, with a rope garden and fountain just beyond. The rope garden has a selection of roses, which will be well worth coming back to see in August when the garden is open to the public through the NGS.



**Ronnie Tyler**

## MANON - The Royal Ballet.

I joined nine other members at 'The Spring' Havant on Tuesday 13th February for an evening screening from The Royal Opera House of Kenneth MacMillan's adaptation of the ballet 'Manon'.

To quote from the R.O.H. website:

This adaptation of Abbé Prévost's novel embodies Kenneth MacMillan at his best, his acute insight into human psychology and his mastery of narrative choreography finding full expression in the impassioned duets of the central couple, visceral and urgent in their desire. The heroine's struggle to escape poverty make Manon one of the most dramatic and devastating of ballets, emphasized by Nicholas Georgiadis' evocative designs that reflect the



juxtaposition between Manon's impoverished origins and the lavish world she longs to inhabit. The 2023/24 Season celebrates the centenary of Nicholas Georgiadis.

I knew nothing about this ballet. Personally I found the choreography rather too 'athletic'. Others felt the same, favouring more Classical Ballet.

There was a lot of 'Manon' being carried on someone's shoulder and 'dropped' and caught by others in the cast, plus other obviously skilful and faultless executed moves. It was very impressive, but I prefer my ballet more 'romantic'... It reminded me of ice-skating dancing and (dare I say it) 'Strictly...' I thought the actual

screening was pretty poor quality.

The two 'Presenters' talked about fabulous stage scenery showing both poverty of most characters and luxury of main characters and wonderfully appropriate costumes. This was the point – to show the contrast and Manon's decision: 'love or wealth'...

The outstanding element of this ballet was the perfect integration of the superb music and how it was a perfectly in sync with the dancers. "Mesmerising" is a great way of describing it and its effect on the audience.

All that said (!) the ballet performances were superb. It was a 2 hour show and we all marvelled at the fitness and dedication of the Company.

For sure, Day Trippers will visit The Spring for another Ballet or Operatic performance streamed from the Royal Opera House. Hope you will join us!!

Thanks to Steve Gorban for organising the Outing.

**Katie Wiggins.**

## Day Trippers invite you to join us on 17 April 2024 visit to St Mary's Church Upper Froyle, Hampshire, GU34 4LB

Join us for a day out to Upper Froyle, Hampshire for a visit to the beautiful St Mary's Church.

**Following our church visit, we lunch at the nearby Anchor Inn in Lower Froyle GU34 4NA**

**10:30 for an 10:45 start. Tea, coffee and biscuits upon arrival. Cost per person £7.00.**

We will carpool to get to the church which is about an hours drive. If you are willing to drive, or would like transport, please let us know. The post code of the Church is GU34 4LB.

The outstanding collection of Sacred Vestments at this church are the gem of this beautiful place of worship, and should not be missed. We will have a tour of the church and a talk and showing of the Vestments.

Used regularly during services and displayed annually to much admiration, the survival of these antique pieces is a story of passion, determination and commitment which could have had a very different outcome. Sitting in the balcony beside the banners every Sunday, it was no surprise that Sarah Thursfield thought of taking one of them when she was asked to bring an example of some embroidery to an ADFAS textile workshop. There she met an Arts Society lecturer, Jacqueline Hyman who had more than 35 years' experience conserving and restoring textiles.

Jacqueline had seen the Froyle vestments some 15 years earlier and was curious to know if the storage arrangements had been improved.





Meanwhile, another member of the congregation, Jean Norkett, had found some unidentifiable cloth trapped in a stuck drawer whilst she was cleaning the sacristy. It turned out to be a pink cope.

Together, Sarah and Jean decided to investigate. Tentatively opening the cupboards and drawers which had housed the vestments for over 100 years, they discovered nearly 200 individual pieces. Unfortunately, they were not alone. Mice, moths, carpet beetle larvae and silverfish had all been enjoying easy access thanks to the backless furniture. Wrapped in newspaper, polyester sheets, dust, and droppings, the fine needlework and fragile silks were being damaged by damp, creases, and the creatures

which had decided to make the vestments their home. Some were so fragile Sarah and Jean worried about moving them. Keen needle workers themselves, they were determined to improve the situation and, in 2003, asked the Parochial Church Council to fund their visit to an ecclesiastical textile conservation workshop in Shropshire. An intensive practical course, Sarah and Jean learned what they could safely do themselves and when to seek professional advice and so began a long and painstaking journey to restore the vestments to their former glory and preserve them for the future.

Jean and Sarah inspired nearly 40 other members of the congregation to help, the damaged altar frontal needed thorough housekeeping which included very careful vacuuming of the vestments using conservation mesh to protect them. When the church was found to have damp levels of 80% it was clear that a humidifier for the sacristy was a key priority, along with protective storage. Metal containers were considered the best type of housing for the vestments, particularly as metal would offer extra security too. In the meantime, there was much to be done to immediately protect the collection, including repacking it with conservation quality acid free paper, laying it flat where possible and putting it onto padded rollers to prevent creases becoming splits.

Recognising there would need to be a significant amount of professional restoration, research into potential funding began. The age and intricacy of the vestments meant that each time-consuming piece of work would cost a significant amount of money.

Exhibitions, group visits and donations raised money, and then they started to send items off to professional conservators. A number of individuals also sponsored specific pieces, often in memory of loved ones. After investigating guilds and grants up and down the land, Linda Bulpitt secured £10,000 of lottery funding to install a display cabinet at the back of the church.

With the exception of a few pieces, which are retained in their current condition for comparison, most of the vestments have been restored to their former glory. Displayed annually to raise money for their continued upkeep, they are also made available for groups to view on request. Perhaps most importantly, those items that are robust enough are regularly worn on special occasions.





## Wine Appreciation One enjoy their 17<sup>th</sup> annual Wine Tasting Gourmet dinner.

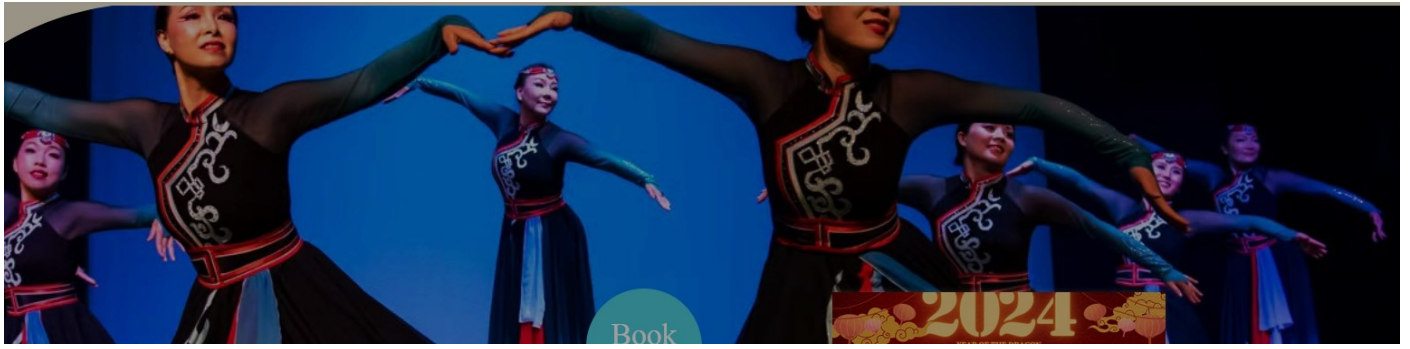


**Sixty diners sat down at the Emsworth Sailing Club on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to enjoy a six course dinner with each course being served with a pairing wine. Last years Chairman Anne Powell travelled down from her new Warwickshire home to join in with this celebration. Current Chairman Tim Mathews was there!**

Wine Appreciation One had a few places free and were able to accommodate members from Wine Two, Wine Three, Wine Four and Wine Five! Therefore it was a coming together of all of the Ems Valley Wine Appreciation Groups! The star of the show? Tricky! Some said the Gewurstraminer, others the Chenin Blanc while many tossed up between the Puglia Primitivo and the Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon. Others quickly noted the edible gold leaf sprinkled on the chocolate dessert and spent time wondering whether to consume it or take it to the valuers the next morning for a payout.....



## How did I arrive at the Chinese New Year in the Kings Theatre?



Well it was Sunday afternoon, raining and miserable. I noticed a Chinese New Year celebration at the Kings Theatre in Southsea. Hence I found myself sitting in the front row of the dress circle with the Gosport Mayor behind me and the Fareham Mayor in the next seat. How did I know that they were Mayors? – the massive gongs around their necks....



(incidentally our Havant Mayor was also there, and the lovely Rosie Raines exchanged a few words in the bar at half time!)

We went with fairly low expectations but we were blown away by the diversity, the colour, the music, the costumes, the dancing and the enthusiasm. Absolutely amazing! It was the year of the dragon and next year it is year of the snake so keep an eye open for it! We got there late and when we saw all the Mayors around us I remarked to Katie that “this was a bit of a rough area and that perhaps I had got the seating wrong”, Fortunately, whilst they clearly overheard my “rough” remarks, they all took it in very good part – I suppose it was just the year

of the dragon humour, plus you don’t get to the position of Mayor unless you can take a joke!

**Your Editor**

## If you have a spare four million pounds.....

LS Lowry’s 1957 painting ‘Sunday Afternoon’, which is worth more than £4 million, will be auctioned on 20<sup>th</sup> March by Christie’s. The Lancashire artist, loved to depict life in Greater Manchester through his extensive portfolio of drawings and paintings. Before his death in 1976, Lowry produced more than 1,000 artworks. Auction house Christie’s said the painting is expected to fetch between £4 to £6 million during their Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale on March 20.



The auctioneers say that this composition represents the wonder the artist felt as he recorded his many observations of the evolving society around him.

The artwork was obtained from the collection of Keith Showering, who was a former chief executive officer of Europe’s biggest drinks business, Allied Breweries.



I wonder if a member of our Art appreciation group would like to comment on this painting before we do the bidding???

## Science and Technology Group Meeting – FUNGI

Our next Science and Technology Group Meeting will be on Thursday 7th March at 2.00pm at our usual venue in St James Parish Hall. Our visiting speaker, Graham Timms, will be talking to us about Fungi. The talk is in two parts: A general look at Fungi and then how one fungus has led to many drug discoveries. Speaking with someone who has heard the talk, I understand it is a really enjoyable talk about a fascinating subject.

After the talk, I would like us to brainstorm your suggestions about future topics for our “Workshops”. Our workshop sessions have been very popular so far – the idea being that we choose a subject about which most of us know very little. We will then go away and do some personal reading and research and then come back, with everyone joining in the discussion. Perhaps this is moving towards the true spirit of U3a?

If you are interested in this subject, and not already a member of **STEM**, but would like to attend, go to the Ems Valley Web site, then to Groups, then to Science and Technology – then send a request via the little carrier pigeon in the top right hand corner.



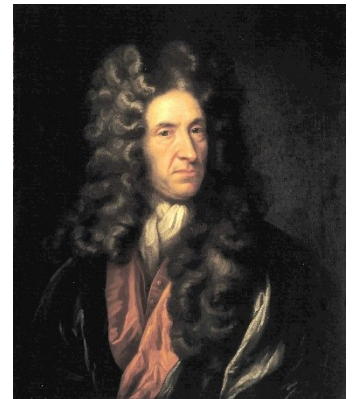
**Geoff Whalley**

## DANIEL DEFOE AND HIS JOURNEYS.....

The guest speaker at the February monthly meeting delivered an amusing résumé of Daniel Defoe's book "A tour through the Whole island of Great Britain", first published in three volumes in 1724-26. It is an account of 13 "circuits or journies" made by this renowned author of such books as "Robinson Crusoe" and "Moll Flanders". The journey that was to be our afternoon talk, by the Historical Geographer from the University of Sussex, dealt exclusively with Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and



Surrey and therefore was most interesting for our Ems Valley



audience. Even Emsworth had a mention. Defoe's terminology and content provided many smiles and often showed that Defoe had different ideas about towns and villages than our current perception. (he thought that Chichester was a heap!) Our guest speaker did not tell us that Defoe was punished in 1703 when he was put in the pillory as punishment for "seditious libel," for having written a satirical pamphlet defending freedom of religion. (He was a dissenter!) But we were told of his several visits to jail for his many bankruptcies. Money from

friends was often required to buy his way out! It all made a most entertaining afternoon, and brought to our attention these travelogues by the author best known for that book that we all read when we were young, Robinson Crusoe.



## Anyone for flying a drone?

Now, here is a chance to be in at the ground floor of an exciting new interest group! William Saywell is asking if “any members would be interested in a drone flying group, including flying, photo and video”?

Yes, you might be seduced by its magic of drones and drone photography.

A completely different point of view... it opens up a new world of possibilities.

But, I am told it is not that easy....

because taking good aerial photos is truly a challenge. Grounds for another unusual interest group in Ems Valley u3a? Watch this space or, more importantly contact William directly on [drone@saywell.org.uk](mailto:drone@saywell.org.uk)



## Brick business get to the core of the matter!

A few months back “Bricks Business” dealt with a very strange pub named the Crooked Pub near Wolverhampton. It



had badly subsided in an area of mining activity and was famous as you can appreciate from the attached picture! Then, very mysteriously, it suffered a bad fire. Even worse, the owner moved in very quickly and totally demolished the fire remains. When this news hit the headlines, back in the autumn it all sounded most suspicious! Now justice seems to be prevailing and the owners of the Crooked House pub have been ordered to rebuild the building “back to what it was” prior to the fire which destroyed it last year.

Hurrah!

South Staffordshire Council announced that it had served an enforcement notice on the owners on Tuesday. The owners

have 30 days to appeal and the notice must be complied with within three years. A news article today says: “The historic West Midlands pub, in Himley, near Dudley, was demolished two days after it was gutted by a fire last August. It was called the Crooked House because it leaned to one side as a result of land subsidence.”

It featured in our Brick Business under a light hearted session named “Bricks are Fun”! I hope the local Builders Merchant has crooked bricks in his yard....

**Alan Borrow**

## Our Richard Swaine gives talks on Roman Roads in Britannia

This month Richard was addressing Hayling u3a and he told them that It is easy to trace the Roman roots of our modern road network and that there are many Roman roads still in use today. 'Stane Street' runs 57 miles in a straight line from Chichester to London and is still a main route over the South Downs hills and through many villages that have links to smaller Roman settlements. A straight-line alignment from London Bridge to Chichester would have required steep crossings of the North Downs, Greensand Ridge and South Downs. The road was





therefore designed to exploit a natural gap in the North Downs cut by the River Mole and to pass to the east of the high ground of Leith Hill, before following flatter land in the River Arun valley to Pulborough. So it is not "straight" all the way!

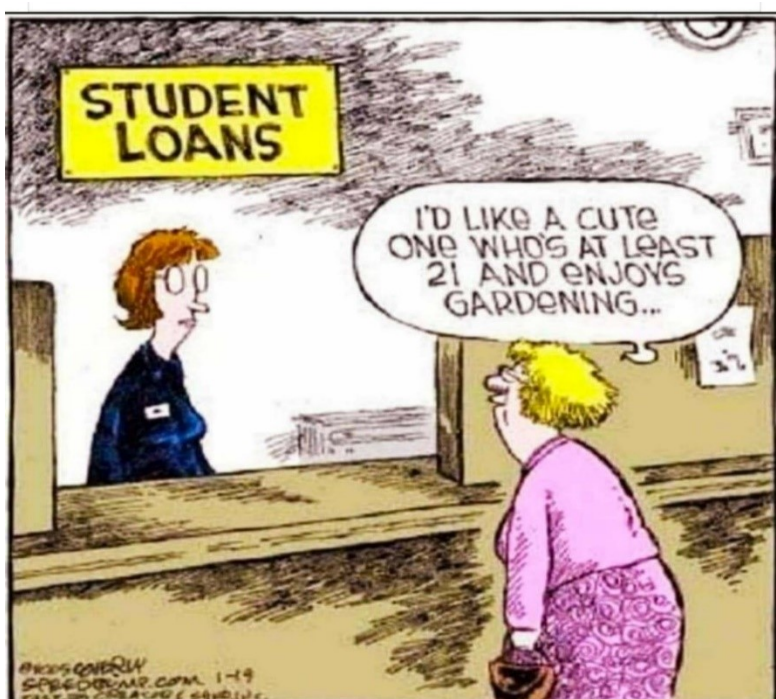
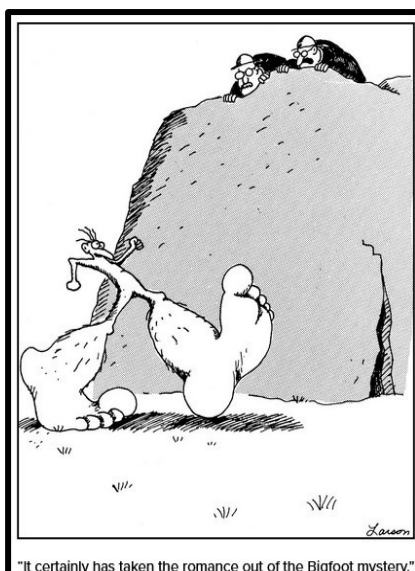
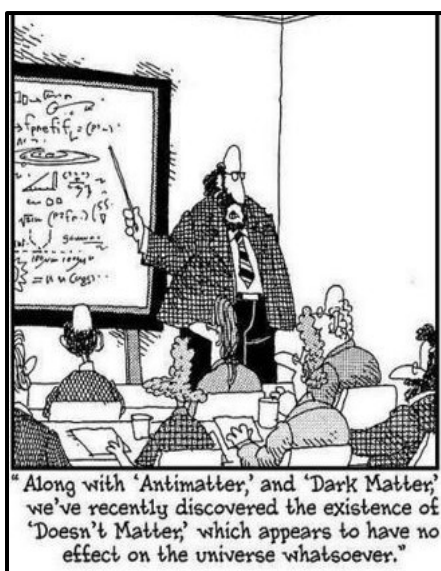
The Fosse Way was one of the most important Roman roads in Britain, linking Exeter, Bath, Cirencester, Leicester and ending in Lincoln.

Ermine Street is a major Roman road that ran from London (Londinium) to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) and York (Eboracum). It is also known as the Old North Road from London to where it joins the A1 Great North Road near Godmanchester.

I have a small bone to pick with him however. The photo shows a Roman road, admittedly not in Britannia, that is not straight either and it ruined my back for many months when I was driven down it - at speed - in a very stiff suspension Landrover type vehicle. Thinking about it, the back is still tender on

bends....

Editor





**All contributions for the next newsletter please to:**  
**[alanborrow1@gmail.com](mailto:alanborrow1@gmail.com)**