



## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Crafts group celebrate their SECOND ANNIVERSARY!



various methods, and we so enjoyed the afternoon, and were very pleased with our results. Thank you very much Kate. What a super afternoon!"

Angela Blunden writes to say that they celebrated their 2nd Anniversary at their October meeting. and enjoyed some celebratory homemade Biscuits!  
"We did Needle Felting under the supervision of one of our talented group, Kate Bullivant who very kindly supplied a lot of the materials for us to use. She shared her skills with us



### Local History Trip to the Groundlings Theatre

Our Local History October meeting saw 31 of us visiting the Groundlings Theatre in Portsea for an interesting and entertaining guided tour which was presented largely by some of the volunteer actors dressed in costumes of the age. The tour started with a description of the building and area in years gone by and especially interesting was the fact that Curzon Howe Street which runs along the side of the theatre, was the first council house development in Portsmouth replacing a notoriously sleazy slum area in 1912. Houses now sell for at least £300,000! The Theatre itself was built in 1784 as a Beneficial Society where local people could pay into an early sort of insurance scheme. The building served as a school for over 200 poor boys living in the dock area from around this date, also providing basic food and clothing. Girls were not welcomed until 1836. The 'school master' who described the conditions and various methods of maintaining discipline while brandishing a cane kept us all in order, almost! While we were obediently listening he introduced a visitor from the school's past with a quite remarkable story to relate to us. It was Henry Ayers, five time Premier of Australia who had himself been one of the pupils in the mid 1820s. The story of how he rose from Portsea ragamuffin to such lofty heights was quite remarkable. Moving to the upper floor, where the theatre stage is, we met three more characters from the past. First a destitute woman arriving to beg for charity in order to feed her starving children. Next Mrs Elizabeth Dickens who had been attending a function with



her husband in 1812 when she began to go into labour and managed to return to her home in time for the birth of her son Charles. Lastly a larger than life character, Josephine Butler who was a Victorian feminist activist and through her campaigning did much to improve the lives and health of deprived women in Portsea especially the sex workers. We learned that much of the upper floor stage area had been constructed from old ship timbers, some from captured French warships. We visited the very basic changing rooms and then the wardrobe department where we learned of young Emily who fell to her death down the back stairs and

evidently continues to haunt the building. Our visit ended with tea, cake and biscuits and a chance to chat further with the volunteer actors who had so generously given their time. The Theatre is at present a community venture and relies on grants and subsidies. It is however in quite a poor state and there are many restrictions on any renovations making them expensive. They recently heard that their future is guaranteed for a further seven years but fundraising is a continual worry so if any U3A members feel able to support the theatre by attending any of their very reasonably priced events I am sure their interest would be very welcome.

## Annual Lecture – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – by PORTSDOWN U3A

Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm – 4.00pm

@ Cosham Baptist Church, Havant Road, Cosham PO6 2QZ

This is a **FREE** event by ticket only – apply to [contact@portsdownu3a.org.uk](mailto:contact@portsdownu3a.org.uk) or in person at the General Meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Cosham Baptist Church, Havant Road, Cosham PO6 2QZ, with refreshments.

**Please note:** Requests for on-line tickets will be sent out from 1<sup>st</sup> November all other tickets can be picked up on the day.

**The History of the Tower of London**

**Speaker – Alan Kingshott**

former Chief Yeoman Warder, HM Tower of London

The presentation will be about the History of the Tower and events, ceremonies and life living in such an iconic environment.



### Facts about the Tower of London:

- 
- The Tower of London is one of the Historic Royal Palaces
- The Tower's most famous Constable is the Duke of Wellington
- The nation's most famous safe, houses the Crown Jewels
- The ravens: Guardians of the Tower of London
- The Tower of London is history's most notorious prison



# Science and Technology Group Update

This month - Evolution

Next Month – Electric Cars



Science and Technology Group now has over 70 members, with about half attending monthly meetings at 2.00pm, on the first Thursday of each month in St James Parish Hall. We cover a wide range of topics, ranging from medical science to space exploration and technology affecting our everyday lives, such as global warming, solar arrays for generating electricity in the home and

electric cars.

At our October meeting we turned to the subject of Evolution in a fascinating and thought-provoking talk by David Gane, our visiting speaker.

David divided his excellent talk; "Evolution and Natural Selection" into three parts.

In the first part he took a whistle stop tour through the evolution of life on Earth from its creation until now, presented by imagining the story taking place in a single 24 hours. There were a number of surprises, not least how late in the day animal and plant life first made an appearance, and even more so the "time" the first humans arose. He also spoke of a number of "mass extinctions" which have taken place in the Earth's history, including the "Great Dying" (the biggest of them all), and the Chicxulub asteroid impact which wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. He then compared these mass extinctions to the situation today, and considered the possibility that we might be causing one of our own.

In the second part he discussed Evolution and Natural Selection. In the third part, David looked at no less than eight separate lines of evidence, all of which independently support the theory of Evolution. These varied as widely as the rocks beneath our feet, the development of human embryos into babies, and the shared chemistry and differences in DNA of different species.

A big thank you to David Gane for a brilliant and enjoyable talk and highly recommended if you missed it but get a future chance to hear it.

Our next meeting will be a workshop discussion on electric cars. We recently held a workshop on AI, which everyone enjoyed. The format is a bit different – sit in a circle and discuss, with any member free to participate and make inputs. Several Electric Car owners have already offered to tell us about their experiences and others will do a bit of background research. So, this should be an interesting session for anyone thinking about moving to an electric car or concerned about global warming and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions!

All Ems Valley Members are invited to attend. If interested, just let me know via the messenger bird on the Science and Technology Group web page.

**Geoff Whalley**

## Wine Appreciation One

It was eleven years ago that this group went on a six day tour of the Loire Valley wine regions. We based ourselves at Amboise so that we could travel east and west along the banks of this mighty river to visit wineries at Vouvray, Saumur, Saumur Champigny and Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil. Needless to say, we were in "Chateau country" and therefore had our fill of spectacular sightseeing as well.



This year, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, sixty diners assembled at the Emsworth Sailing Club for a Loire reunion dinner. The four courses were based on the Loire delicacies that we had been introduced to on that visit some eleven years earlier.

We were reacquainted with fougues, rillettes du Mans, Goats cheese, Tarte Tatin and Loué poultry. And we remembered how Eddie our Woods coach driver “managed” his driving hours so that he could take us to various restaurants in the evenings in addition to our daily travels. (I noticed that one of these, the Lion d’Or on the quay at Amboise was now a Michelin starred restaurant.)

Our evening at the Sailing Club ended with the showing of a thirty minute film that Jeff Thatcher had brilliantly produced after that memorable trip. 44 members travelled on that occasion. Wine One was joined by Wine Two and Wine Three members at this dinner and the pictures below show Ems Valley wine lovers enjoying their Sancerre, their Cremant sparkling, and would you believe, a Beaujolais Village of some note!





## Day Trippers Upcoming events for November and December and Outings planned for 2024.

Firstly, thanks to everyone who attended our recent planning meeting and for your great ideas and help planning future individual days out. We hope you all are well and ready for the busy Christmas season that is almost upon us.

**For November** we will again visit the Southdowns Planetarium on Sunday 12 November at 3:30. All who have been there highly recommend a visit. Prior to this visit, we will meet at 1:00 for lunch at Reina Kitchen in Chichester enjoying their excellent Turkish Cuisine.

**The theme of the presentation at the planetarium is FANTASTIC NORTHERN LIGHTS**

Click on the link below for all the details. Directions and postcode are also on the website.

<https://www.southdowns.org.uk/events.html#nov>

Please reserve your tickets online directly, and please let us know that you will attend so we are aware of how many for lunch.

(The website for Reina Kitchen is <https://reinakitchen.co.uk/>)

The Cattle Market car park is handy, just across the street.

Now, **what would Christmas be without a Panto?** On 7th December we are going to a 10:00 AM performance of Puss in Boots at The Groundlings Theatre in Portsmouth. Tickets are most reasonably priced @ £9.50 per person.

Groundlings Theatre is easily accessible by train, bus or car.

Lunch to follow at Abarbistro a short walk from the theatre. You will have time to roam or shop at Gunwharf Quay.

When we know how many people will attend the Pantomime, lunch menu details will be sent out.

**Please reply by 7 November** so that our seats will be reserved. Coffee and light snacks are available in the bar area of the theatre.

Groundlings Theatre invite you to Bumpy Village to join for a magical adventure you will never forget.

Bumpy village is in turmoil and it's local residents, known as Bumpkins aren't sure what to do. The fiendish Mayor is dabbling in magic and for some reason demands that the local baker, Claybourne bakes 500 Victoria Sponges a day.

He seeks the help of Dame Beatrice Bucket, a washed out cabaret style who has discovered her skills as a

handywoman whilst her two hapless sons, Gordon and Peter who remain completely useless at everything they put their hand too. Things need to change. But after a spell goes wrong, a new character arrives in Bumpy Village.

Get ready to shout for the goodies, boo the baddies and sing along with the residents of Bumpy Village in a show

packed full of comedy, magic and adventure. With plenty to sing, dance and clap along to, Puss in Boots is the

perfect treat this Christmas. Seating is Cabaret style in tables of 10 people. Going as an all adult group should make this an experience to remember or not to be remembered!



We also have a **tentative schedule of events** for the coming year.

January /February : Live feed of a ballet or opera from the Royal Opera House at The Spring Theatre in Havant.

February /March : A behind the scenes tours at Kings Theatre in Southsea.

April: A Visit to a Historic Church with tour and Pub Lunch

May: A guided walk of the Millenium Trail in Portsmouth

June: Loseley Park: A guided tour of the House and Garden

July: A trip on canal boat

September: Behind the scenes touring the world famous Wimbledon Tennis Facilities

October: A Tour and tasting followed by lunch at Court Garden Vineyard in Ditchling

We look forward to seeing you soon,

**Simon Winslow and Steve Gorban**

## ARE YOU THINKING OF STARTING A NEW GROUP?

In the last newsletter, I published a list of all the current interest groups from every u3a in the UK!  
But that was only half the list. Here is the second half:

lunch - Sunday	motorbike outings	plant power	Rummikub
lunch clubs	motorcycling	plastic scale modelling	Russian
magic for beginners	motorists forum	play reading	Russian Studies
mah-jong	movie makers	poetry appreciation	sailing
making videos	murder mystery books	poetry reading	salsa
malt whisky tasting	music appreciation	poker	saxophone
manx for beginners	myths & legends	Polish	scandinavian interests
map reading	national trust visits	politics	science
map reading & navigation	naval history	pool	Scrabble
maritime studies	navy and waterside walks (old railways and canals)	Portugese	Scrabble bench
mathematics - joy of maths	needle tatting	pottery	Scrabble for pleasure
maths 4 fun	needlecraft	practical aromatherapy	scrapbooking
maths elementary	Netfli zoom	press gang	scratchboard art
maths everywhere	Nordic walking	printmaking - lino etc	scuba diving
maths for Grandparents	nostalgia	prog rock	sea glass crafts
maths in your life	open mike	psychology	sequence group
maths power and magic	opera	Python	seriously funny/laughter
medau – exercise	orienteeing	programming	shabashi seated – exercise
medieval manuscripts	origami	questers	Shakespeare on screen
melody matters	painting on wood	quilting	short story writing
memories and recollections	palaentology	racing demons	silver dream bikers
memory recall	paper craft	racketball	silver surfers – computers
metal detecting	paranormal	rackets mornings	singing
metalwork	parish churches	radioheads	singing for pleasure
metaphysics	patchwork	rail interests	skittles
meteorology	pencil sketching	rambling with a sketch book	snooker
military history	phase 10 - card game	Raspberry Pi (computer for robotics and kids)	social scrabble
model making	phenomena	reading	sociology
model railways	philately	reading homers odyssey	sounding board
modern jive	philosophy	reflexology	space and the universe
money matters	photography	remember when – ice breakers	Spanish
Monopoly	photoshopping	retail therapy	Spanish Beginners
MOOCs	photoball	river systems	Spanish Intermediate
moral/ethical issues	piano	robot construction	spirals exercise
mosaics	pilates	robotics	spirituality
motor sport enthusiasts	pitch & putt	rocks and ruins	
sporting forum	planes, trains and automobiles	Romanian rowing	story stacks & messy play
stained glass	stamp & postal history	rugby appreciation	village history
street bowling	target shooting	steam railways	vintage transport
string band	target sports – rifle/tomahawk	steel band	vinyl records
studies	ted talks	trionimoes (similar to dominoes but three sided)	virtual investment club
study trips	teddy bear making	trivial pursuit	walking - country
sugarcraft	ten pin bowling	ukulele beginners	walking - cricket
super sleuths – escape rooms	tennis	ukulele playing	walking - exploring London
swimming		understanding the weather	walking - navy & waterside
table tennis	textile art	vedic chant	walking - various distances
Tai Chi	theology	vegetarian and vegan	
talk sport	town study group	video making	
talking newspaper	travellers tales	vikings	
tapestry weaving			

walking football  
walking netball  
walking rugby  
walking with dogs  
walking with your  
bus pass  
Welsh  
whist  
white water rafting

Windows 10  
wine tasting  
wings and wheels  
wire sculpture  
women and history  
woodcarving woodturning  
woodwork  
word puzzles  
words with friends

world service  
archive  
Writing - Short  
Story  
Writing Workshop  
writing your life  
story  
WW1 memories  
WWII

Yiddish  
conservation  
zentangle  
zumba gold

## U3A Diaries

**You can obtain your 2024 u3a diary from our business secretary Dbee Robinson now - cost £4.50. See her at the November meeting or send her a message via the web site.**



**You don't get a better picture than this:**



Shirley Court, Sheila Morris and Jo Durant make this a delightful photo that was taken earlier this year at a fund raising event for Sheila's "Emsworth in Bloom!"

They are all long serving members of Ems Valley u3a and each has made contributions that we well remember!

Shirley was treasurer for many years in the early days.

Sheila introduced Mah Jong to Ems Valley which proved to be an instant and longstanding success. Josephine is my technical advisor in Wine Appreciation One. (but all three have been constant and enthusiastic travellers when the ten Wine trips abroad took place!)

It was great to see them together at this function even if the camera appears to give them a touch of the "mauves"! **Ed.**

## **When bricks were made in Notting Hill**



Pottery Lane is a street in Notting Hill, west London. Today it forms part of one of London's most fashionable and expensive neighbourhoods, but in the mid-19th century it lay at the heart of a wretched and notorious slum known as the "Potteries and the Piggeries". The slum came to the attention of Londoners with the building of the Hippodrome racecourse in 1837 by entrepreneur John Whyte. Unfortunately for Whyte, a public right of way existed over his land and "dirty and dissolute vagabonds" from the nearby slum invaded his racecourse, adding to his financial difficulties and, in part, leading to the closure of his venture in 1842. Pottery Lane gradually improved in the late 20th century along with the





rest of the Notting Hill area, and today the houses there fetch multi-million pound prices. Just one of the original brick kilns still survives, seen above; it is located in Walmer Road, just north of Pottery Lane, and bears a commemorative plaque placed there by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. These facts were covered recently in a Bricks business meeting explaining that bricks were always made as close as possible to the site where they were to be used, providing the soil contained enough clay content for the product. Houses around here in Emsworth for instance, were built with bricks fired on the actual site

in a small clamp and from soil dug out of the foundations. Quite green when you think about it!

### DISRUPTION TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

You do not realise how much you take email communication for granted until you haven't got it! Virgin Media decided to disrupt me (bigtime) over a week ago! Thankfully, Dbee Robinson, our business secretary has been helping by "fielding" some of my messages. The result has been a smaller than usual newsletter (and limited jokes!) but here is some lovely nostalgia to finish this month's newsletter. Fingers crossed for the December edition! **Ed**



It is high tide at Langstone Quay. The year?????. The barge ties up as close to the quay as draught allows. A plank of wood bridges the gap. One man unloads on the quay, another is about to 'walk the plank' and another leans on his shovel on the boat having a break. But what are they unloading? Shingle, Oysters, sea sand, corn, fertilizer, answers on a postcard to any address other than Virginmedia please.



A floating Bridge between Portsmouth and Gosport was operated by chains sitting on the harbour bottom. Not too sure what our new Aircraft Carriers would make of those??

The Bridge was in operation from 1840 until 1959!

It needed an Act of Parliament to approve its introduction and it put approximately 1100 watermen out of work as they had supplied the rowing boat service before 1840. The horse carriages or carts faced a fourteen mile trip round the entire harbour, known, as "Going round the Victory"

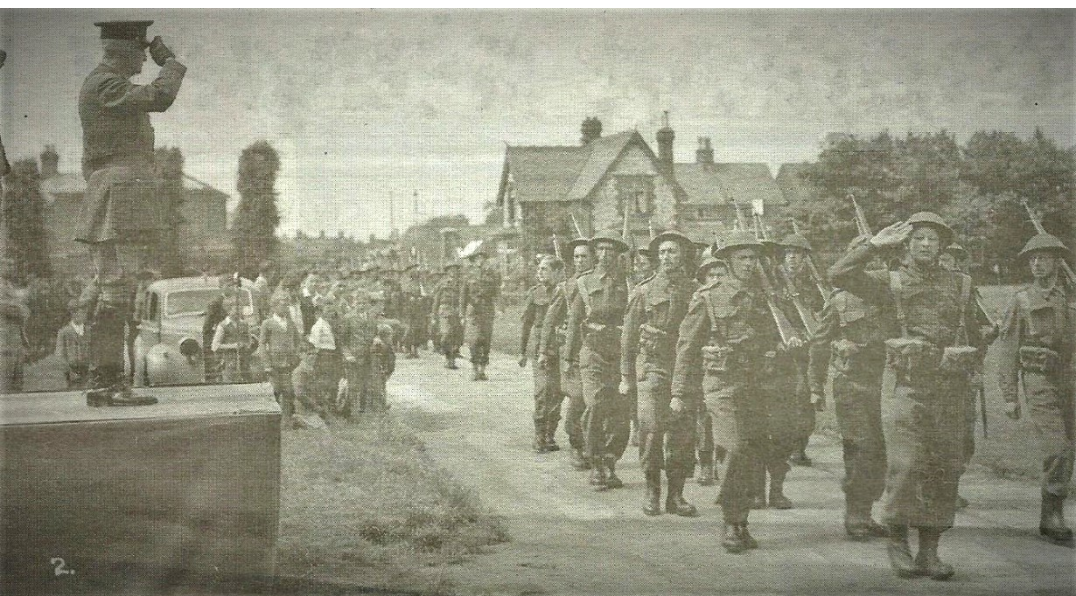




A load of Brick Rubble bound for a building site in Emsworth. Tell the poor horse that it is downhill all the way now.... That house is still there.... Photo taken just the Emsworth side of the Bupa Hospital turning. I wonder whose house sits on that brick rubble today? Note the driver remembered to bring his shovel for offloading.



The Hayling 47 bus stops before crossing Hayling bridge. The conductor can be seen telling the passengers to alight and walk across the bridge before they are able to rejoin the bus. Weight restrictions because of the dodgy supports were in force! Is that a Portsmouth Grammar school cap? Is it a Convent of the Cross beret?



An officer stands on a makeshift stand. The troops are doing their EYES RIGHT. It is prior to D Day. Might the group of onlooking children include one of our members? But where is this? It should be identifiable by the buildings.....





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

**Please note the new email address!**