



October 2023 NEWSLETTER

EMS VALLEY U3A MONTHLY PLANNER For:

MONDAYS – TUESDAYS - WEDNESDAYS as at September 2023

(please see under for Thursdays and Fridays)

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.

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.		CAMEO 2 Petanque 10.45 Line Dancing 11.00 – 12.00	Rambling French (Conversational) Advanced and Intermediate 9.30 – 1.00 Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45
	p.m.	Spanish Improvers 2.30 – 4.30 Book Group 4	Book Group 2 Pilates Group 1 2.00 – 3.00 CAMEO 3	Crafts 12.00 – 2.00 Ancient Greece 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 Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45
	p.m.	Drawing Board Games Discussion 1 Spanish Improvers 2.30 – 4.30	Family History Jazz Appreciation Italian Beginners 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. Pilates Group 1 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 Improvers 2.30 – 4.30 Book Group 3 Photography	Wine Appreciation Group 1 3.15 Pilates Group 1 2.00 – 3.00 Wine Appreciation Group 3 3.00 – 5.00	Wine Appreciation Group 2
	Evening		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 Improvers 2.30 – 4.30	Brick Business Play Reading Group 1 Italian Beginners 2.00 – 3.00 Pilates Group 1 2.00 – 3.00	Pilates Group 2 10.45 – 11.45 Singing For Fun

Monthly Planner for: THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS

		THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1	a.m.	French (Mixed Ability) CAMEO Group 1 10.15	Spanish Intermediate 09.30-11.30 Bridge
	p.m.	Science & Technology Mah Jong 2.30 – 4.30	Local History
Week 2	a.m.	Classical Music Birds & Wildlife 9.30 a.m. start	Discussion Group 2 Bridge
	p.m.	Mah Jong 2.30 – 4.30 Book Group 1	
Week 3	a.m.	French (Mixed Ability)	Spanish Intermediate 9.30 - 11.30 Bridge
	p.m.	Mah Jong 2.30 – 4.30	
Week 4	a.m.		Art Appreciation Bridge
	p.m.	MONTHLY MEETING EMSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH 2.00 pm	

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

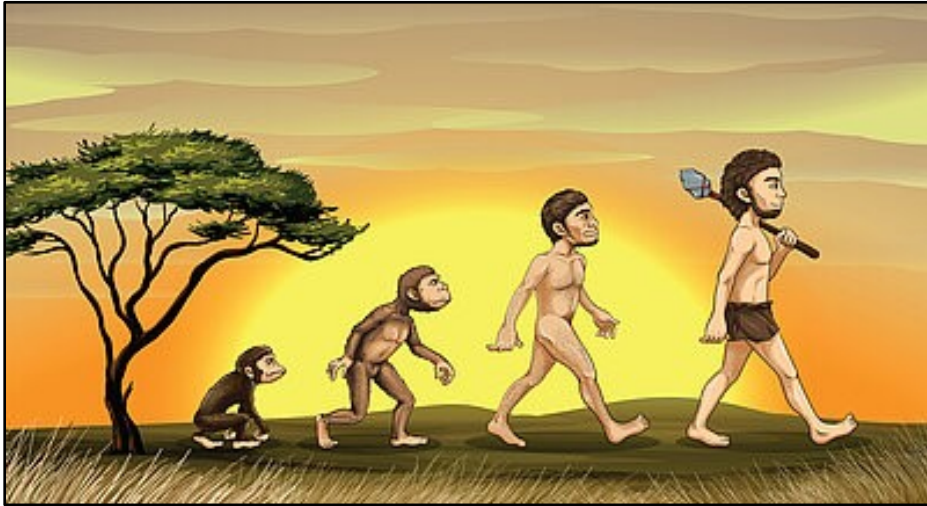
The following Groups do not have regular meeting times:

THEATRE VISITS
DAY TRIPPERS
MODEL RAILWAYS
T.R.U.G.S. (The Really Useful Group)

Apple just announced their new electric vehicle, the iCar, coming in 2024. And rumour has it - they're working on a self-driving boat as well. They're going to call it the iAye (Aye Aye)

STOP PRESS:

The next Science and Technology Group Meeting will be on Thursday 5th October at 2.00pm in St James Parish Hall. We will be treated to a talk on Evolution by David Gane.



David will briefly tell the story of life on Earth before looking at some aspects of the theory of Evolution and the evidence for it. Amongst other things David will touch on the “Late Heavy Bombardment”, Plate Tectonics, Mass Extinctions, DNA, Embryology, Convergent Evolution, and interbreeding between our ancestors and the Neanderthals.

All Ems Valley U3a members are welcome to join us, but please send a message via the website to the group leader, so we can make sure we have space.
Pam Palmer

European Kite Surfing comes to Portsmouth and Hayling!



This particular discipline of kiteboarding is making its debut at the Paris Olympics 2024, and on 23 and 24 September 2023, the European finals were held off Eastney beach. I saw the above action at Hayling beach ahead of a stiff breeze on Sunday 24th. So stiff was that breeze, that the kites were approaching the beach ahead of the surfers, who were still well out to sea! Wind between 18 and 24 knots is considered perfect for kitesurfing and on Sunday it was at the top end. A most colourful morning!
Ed.

List of Interest GROUPS in all the u3as in Great Britain! May give you some ideas – Or perhaps, a moment to chuckle – Inspires you to act?

PS this is only A – J next month we publish K - Z

a'capella singing	belleplates - like	coin collecting	Dickens & Victorian	gelotology - science
accordion	handbells	comedy & humour	novels	of humour
acoustic guitar	bells	commonwealth	digital painting	geocaching
african drumming	bezique -card game	war graves	- on a laptop	geography
alfresco art/craft	bible study	comparative	directions in	geology
(ie painting and	biblical Hebrew	religions	retirement	geometry sacred
drawing outside)	bingo	conservation	discovery award –	geosciences
all about herbs	biography	conspiracy theories	Duke of Edinburgh	German
amateur dramatics	biography –	cookery for men	DIY	German
amateur radio	legendary lives	cosmology	dog walking	German Beginners
american history	Bird Watching	costume jewelry	dolls house miniatures	Gilbert and Sullivan
ancient civilization	birdwatching	beginners	dominoes –	gin appreciation
ancient greece ancient	bismarck - card game	countdown - TV	Mexican train	global issues
worlds	board Games	programme	dominos	global significance
anorak	bobbin lace	creative fashion	dowsing	golf
communications -	boccia - like bowls	crewel embroidery	drama appreciation	greek
making films	bolivia - card game	cribbage	dressmaking and	grumpies
anthology	bonsai	cricket - walking	tailoring	guitar
anthropolgy - social	botanical illustration	cricket lovers	dry stone walling	guitar, accoustic
antiques	botany	crime & forensics	Dutch	halma - board
aqua aerobics	botules	crime and punishment	e-biking and cycling	game
Arabic	bowls carpet	crime fiction	economics	handbell ringing
archaeology	bowls indoor	criminal justice	Egyptology	harmonica
archery architecure	boys toys	criminal psychology	embroidery	health matters
armchair adventurers	brainteasers	criminology	engineering and	heraldry
armchair astronomy	breakfast group	crochet & knitting	technology	herbal
armchair critics	brewing - craft beers	croquet	English country	heritage detectives
art - Exploring	brick business	crochet and knitting	dancing	historical
art - looking at art	bridge	croquet	enriching	consequences
art - teaching	bridge (Teaching)	crossword compiling	retirement	history - post Roman
art - various	British sign language	crosswords	escape room	history - social & Local
art - workshop	bucketteers	cryptic clues	challenge	history - various eras
art & architecture	buddhism & early	cryptic crosswords	essential oils	history of medicine
artistic lettering	Christianity	cultures and custom	etymology	history of our times
astrology	butterflies	current affairs	euchre - card game	horse racing
astronomy	cake decorating	curry nights	Excel for beginners	hula hoop
astronomy	calligraphy	cycle maintenance	exploring	human body
astrophysics	canal art and	cycling	architecture	humour
audio visual	culture	dancing - ballroom	exploring London	image editing and
autoharp	canasta	dancing - barn	family history	manipulation
automobile	canoeing	dancing - belly	fantasy shares	improvised comedy
aviation	caravans &	dancing –	fascinating people	industrial heritage
axe throwing	camping	bellybollyhula –	in history	international law
backgammon	carpet bowls	belly, bollywood	fiddle playing	introduction
badminton	cartography	hawaian hula	finance & investing	forensic science
bake x change	Catalan learning	dancing - flamenco	first aid	investors forum
baking	ceailidh dancing	dancing - folk	fishing	Italian
baking with yeast	ceramics	dancing - line	fishing coarse	Italian Beginners
ballet appreciation	chair yoga	dancing -	fishing fly	Italian language
ballet for seniors	chemistry	longsword	fishing freshwater	learning
bamboo pipes	chess	and rapper	flower arranging	Italian nights
banjolele	chinese culture and	dancing - morris	folk band	Japanese culture
bar billiards	language	dancing - tap	foraging and funghi	jazz
bead needle	church crawlers	dancing - tea	forensic linguistics	jewellery making
weaving	cinema	darts	French	jigsaw swap
	city studies	de-coupage	French Beginners	jogging
beadwork for	classic cars	desert island discs	fungus	journey down the
beginners	clay pigeone	design & make -	Gaelic	Silk Road
beatles harmony	shooting	ladies	gallery visits	juggling
bee keeping	climate change	design & make –	garden history	juke box
beer tasting	clock restoration	men	garden project group	
beetle drive	coffee club	diabetic support	garden visiting	

We Won, We Won!



As we play Croquet at the same venue, for the last few years EmsValley U3A Croquet Groups have challenged Chichester U3A Croquet Group to a Match. They have always refused saying they had not got enough members but this year they accepted the Challenge. I think they were really afraid of our friendly but competitive spirit !!! We were not short of members wanting to play so names were picked out of the hat to form a team of eight – four pairs. The Team consisted of David Milne with Pauline Nelson, Warren Ornstein with Tricia Davis, Graham Taplin with Susie Barker and Rob Nelson with Ann Newnham.

The day dawned – August 30th and no rain in sight – in fact a beautiful summer morning. We played two games of 50 minutes each with a break for refreshments.



Thank you to Deborah and Maureen for organising cream scones and cake !! We all won our Games, eventually beating Chichester 48 hoops to 34 ,a credit to Sally Short and Jane Gribbon our long suffering Coaches from the Club. David and Pauline were the winning pair – congratulations to them.

It was good to mix with another U3A – perhaps other Groups should try arranging combined meeting occasionally. A return Match has already been arranged for next year.

If anyone would like more information about the Croquet Group please contact Ann Newnham via the website.

Ann Newnham



ED. I understand that there are five new sports at the Paris Olympics 2024. (dance breaking, sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing). What about you getting Ems Valley ready for a Croquet Olympic gold medal Ann? I think David and Pauline could fine-tune their game in time....)

CRAFT GROUP getting the Gift Tags ready!



Angela Blunden writes: For our September Craft Group last Wednesday we were making Gift Tags, and as you can see they are very creative and of course so useful. As usual we all had a lovely time

despite the very warm day.

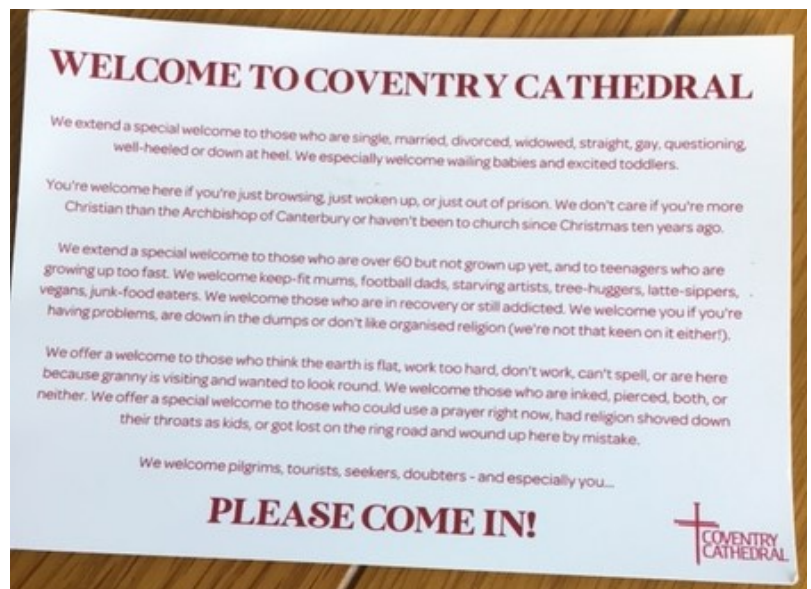
I am also sending you a photo of the wonderful 'Sensory Doll' that Margaret Mellhuish made for her granddaughter Flo, it was made from all recycable material, isn't she so adorable!



The NOTICE on the right was seen by some of our members visiting COVENTRY CATHEDRAL last week.

How about this for a spot of enlightened thinking??

In one short notice, they have managed to welcome everybody you could possibly come across!



Science and Technology Group Talk on Environmental Satellites



For our September meeting STEM had a talk on Environmental Satellites by Andrew Horne, who was previously employed in the Space industry.

For over 32 years the European Space Agency has been monitoring the Earth's environment with a series of satellites. Andrew went into detail about two of the impressive machines used, Envisat and Sentinel. These machines are aiming to answer huge questions, some of which are:

Why is there a big increase in forest fires and natural disasters?

What is the cause of El Nino?

Why are sea levels rising?

Can we slow down global warming?

Andrew explained the many instruments used, which are constantly measuring pretty well everything so they can assess changes in: gases, stars, the ozone, land, oceans, soils, coastline. As I said, everything.

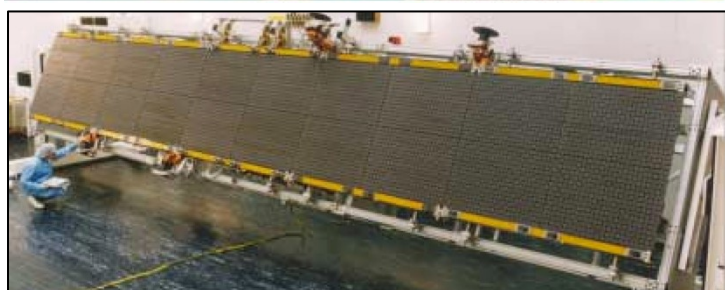
Who knew stars change colour according to the ozone around them?

Andrew also described the Advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar (ASAR), whose antenna can be seen below the satellite in the picture. We were treated to an outline of the concepts of Synthetic Aperture Radar and also, Pulse Compression (Chirp), which give the radar incredible, almost photographic, resolution. See the ENVISAT ASAR image of Tokyo Bay.

To obtain this resolution the radar antenna is enormous – see the picture on the left, with a crouching technician in front of it. Andrew discussed the sheer engineering challenge involved in getting such a large structure into space.

In a period of over 10 years Envisat has done more than 2,500 scientific studies of our home planet – and I suspect most of us had no idea of any of them.

Pam Palmer



Five Wine Appreciation groups – is this a record?

I have been investigating Wine Appreciation in U.K. u3as.

The most I can find is at Epsom, where they have four Wine Appreciation groups, but that is before you come across the wine capital of the United Kingdom, Ems Valley u3a. Yes we have five groups, and they are all going strong.....

Should we be proud of this statistic or should we scratch our heads and try to decide why Emsworth should breed this amount of wine aficionados. Do we have enough members to start a petition for Downing Street about the 44p

increase in duty they have slyly applied? Should we rattle our empties and stop the traffic on the A259 as did the sewage protesters few weeks ago. Asda, Tesco and Aldi would probably chip in with advertising hats and aprons.....

Alan Borrow, asking for a friend



OUR CHAIRMAN MOVES FAST!

Full marks to our chairman for his action and adaptability this month when he was first faced with no speaker for the monthly meeting (through illness) and then faced with no venue (through Health and Safety regs). I have awarded him the top gold medal for his speed of action in overcoming both issues. Sorry that it won't be ready for presentation at the meeting but gold is very scarce at present and the waiting time for this type of medal can be many months. But we are thinking of you Tim, and thank you for "KEEPING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD"

Daytrippers meeting to decide the Winter programme – Are you interested?



Steve and Simon write:

Now that Summer has past and the seasons move forward, it is time to plan for the next few months.

We meet at our usual place, Waterside United Reformed Church, on the corner of the A259 and Bath Road in Emsworth for a 2:00PM start on Tuesday 17 October. Car parking is available. All welcome. Please bring your thoughts and ideas and if you are not able to attend, please send in your ideas to us via the web site.

We will be discussing a return Visit to the South Downs Planetarium, a walk of historic Old Portsmouth and lunch to follow for our Christmas outing.

We are always interested in a meeting place for a meal out for as a social event.

"Bricks" go back to 10,000BC.

The meeting of BRICKS BUSINESS in September went right back to the beginning as we explored sun dried bricks in Mesopotamia, Turkey, Egypt, China and The Indus Valley. Yes, there were houses and citadels built all those years ago with simple mud bricks. Fetch a pail of mud from the lake shore, add water and grass or reed, mix well, shape like a loaf of bread and lay it in the sun to harden. Yes, those countries had the sunshine and heat to replace the fire of our kilns that were necessary to burn our bricks many many years later. Consequently their civilisations developed much earlier than here. And of course, sun dried bricks are still used today!

But we also looked at four houses at Windsor, Berks, which were recently discovered in a quarry in 2013. Carbon dating reliably placed them at 5000 years BC! They were probably built by pioneer farmers who had moved into the area bringing with them the knowledge and woodworking skills necessary to construct quite substantial buildings.



All these houses were rectangular in shape with the largest being 15m x 7m, and two were constructed out of upright oak planks set into foundation trenches, while the others were built using wooden posts. (see pic) The radiocarbon dating was possible by taking the charred remains of cereal and hazelnut shells found in those buildings. Until this discovery, we had no idea that this level of sophistication

Fired bricks (in a kiln) started to be seen by 3000BC and this opened up a totally new field for the likes of King Darius and the

ruthless Nebuchadnezzar. They ordered that their bricks be twice fired, with the second firing containing a colourful glaze. (the secret recipe of this glaze was never written down and therefore we may never see the like again!)

Archaeologists have, in the 19th and 20th centuries, managed to find and recover some of the evidence of the wonderful results of their work. You can see them today in the Louvre in Paris and the Pergamon museum in Berlin, or you can just scan your October edition of the Ems Valley Newsletter....

Next month, we plan to look at BRICKS in the classical world 500BC to 1000AD.

(Below: The Ishtar Gate to Babylon on the left, and a unicorn from the palace of Darius at Susa, Iran.)



COFFEE MORNING TO WELCOME 15 NEW MEMBERS!



A lively coffee morning took place at the Community Centre on Wednesday 27th September. The event was supported by about the same number of Group Leaders! Our Chairman Tim welcomed the new members and introduced the group leaders present to the new members. This picture shows him leaving and making sure that everyone knows and appreciates his onions! (the tell-tale finger mono in the top right hand corner ensures that you know that your editor was standing in for



the official u3a photographer on this occasion.) As usual, our ever present Groups Coordinator, Ann Sims not only made certain that everyone was suitably name tabbed, but took over Tea Lady duties as well. What would we do without her??!! Reg Newnham and Karen (Beacon) Rodger are in animated discussion in the background. It was a very lively and very useful occasion, and it carried forward the tradition started by Anne Powell. By the way – what is Beacon? Beacon is a software system that we subscribe to and which makes light of the communication job of our group leaders. Well done Karen! Speaking as a group leader, we now just press a button and every one of our group immediately knows exactly what to do, when to do it and anything else that is required of them!

Mens Shed update

Mens Shed Emsworth is not part of Ems Valley u3a, but it fulfils a very useful purpose in making certain that the males of Emsworth are able to avoid the feet of their spouses and do useful work as well as satisfying all of their creative talents. Their premises, on the right hand side as you enter the E.C.A. compound, are a happy, inventive, friendly and productive venue! See the pics below to prove my point!



Nostalgia Corner – meanwhile back at the Church Hall!

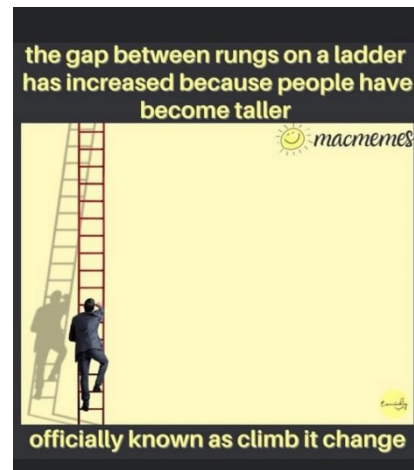


As reported earlier, we had our access to the Baptist Church blocked for the September monthly meeting! (Apparently there was a health and safety issue).

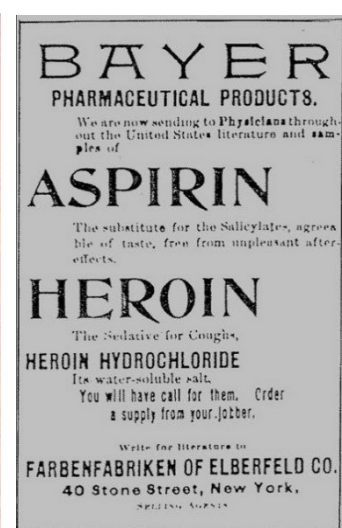
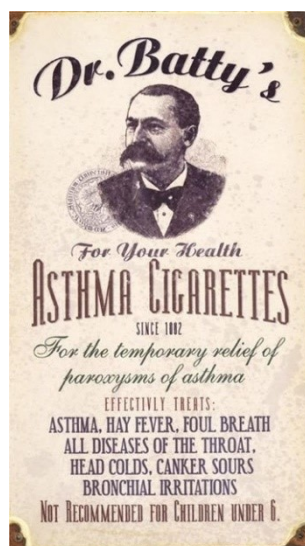
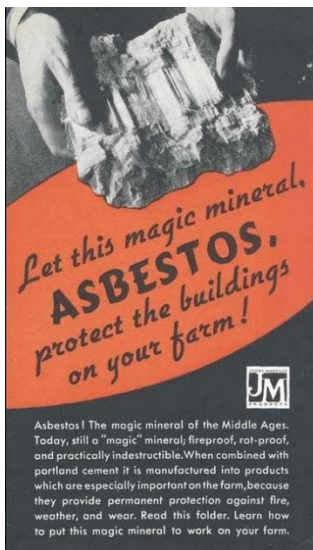
Tim managed to book us into the previous venue, the Church Hall in Church Path, and a good attendance of ninety were entertained by Bobby Darbyshire who explained, in a humorous manner, how a fiction writer sets about writing her book. The pictures show tea break at the meeting and those members who stayed for the second half were entertained to an interesting resumé of our STEM interest group by the leader, Geoff Whalley. It was a shame that more did not stay for the second half, because Geoff outlined a most interesting account of the previous STEM year and the variety of their talks/presentations/workshops was quite staggering!

Tim reported that we would return to the Baptist Hall for the October meeting. The picture on the right shows Chris Morrison talking with Bobby, the Guest Speaker, who had just sold out of all of her five novels!

Not too sure about the authenticity of this pun but the message is current!



Ads from Bygone years.....???



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

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