



September 2023 NEWSLETTER

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING DIFFERENT GOING ON IN EMS VALLEY U3A
Tell the editor what is happening in your interest group – we all like to read about it!

News from the CRAFT GROUP



Angela Blunden writes:

I know usually U3a meetings are not held in August, so I am sending you a photo of our efforts. We made Paper gift Bags, which is a really useful craft as they are so much nicer than the bought ones & cheaper and can be made to fit the gift.....win win.

Ed replies: Gosh, how useful! I think that my gift will fit the little black bag perfectly. Now one can appreciate why you should never throw any decorated paper away! Are they strong enough for wine? Can you make a reinforced one for my bricks?

DAYTRIPPERS NEXT OFFER: Albury Vineyard Tour and Tasting - 27th September

LEAVE 11:00 AM Start

Pub Lunch at nearby The Drummond at Albury to follow.

Hello all,

We hope your summer is going well. We are working on more outings for the upcoming months.

Here is a day out, not too far to travel, for a vineyard tour and tasting with a pub lunch following at The Drummond at Albury.



We need an addition 2 to 6 people. Feel free to ask friends to join us. Thanks to those already coming. The price per person for the tour and tasting is £25.00. Please forward a deposit of £10.00 p/p to Steve Gorban by 16 August as we need to pay a deposit to the Vineyard to reserve our Private Tour.

Mr S Gorban

Sort Code 40-45-22

Account Number 11658476

Albury Vineyard is the result of Nick Wenman's passion for quality wine. Nick planted the vineyard in 2009 having retired from the IT industry to fulfill his dream of owning a vineyard.

Nick believes that key to the success of the wines is the vineyard's commitment to organic and biodynamic principles, together with excellent winemakers and his talented Estate Manager Alex, one of the few female vineyard managers in England. Her expertise is vital to the running of the vineyard, and her dogs Attila, Ulisee and Mildred are well loved by visitors!

Nick's daughter Lucy now manages marketing and events, and Alex has been joined on the vineyard by vineyard manager Dominic and apprentice Declan.

Albury Vineyard is situated on the southern slopes of the North Downs in the beautiful Surrey Hills, just outside Guildford on the A25 towards Dorking. The vines are the traditional Champagne varietals of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, as well as some Seyval and Pinot Gris. We are committed to producing organic fruit without the use of chemicals such as herbicides and fungicides, and produce English wine of the highest quality; a still rosé and quality sparkling wines.

PLANS are also in the works for a garden visit, a return to South Downs Planetarium, a canal boat trip and a guided tour of historic Portsmouth with a lunch following.

Simon Winslow and Steve Gorban

Another vineyard trip offer – this time on behalf of the Emsworth and District u3a

Ed: I am publicising this trip in the interests of inter Emsworth u3a harmony and because our very own Steve Gorban is active in this neighbouring group. They need another four names to make the trip viable.

Hi Wine Lovers

Emsworth and District Wine Appreciation Group invites you to join us for our annual outing to a vineyard for a tour and tasting and delicious lunch to follow.

Our friend Giles from South Downs Cellars, has found our venue for this years' Vineyard Tour for the 10th October at Court Garden Vineyard and Winery, near Ditchling. Departure time from the Waterside United Reformed Church on the corner of Bath Rd and the A259 approximately 10:00. Details will be confirmed a week prior to departure. Car park is at the church.



IN THE LEA of the South Downs, in Ditchling, East Sussex, Court Gardens Farm has a long history of farming. In Saxon times the farm was known as the Manor of Ditchling Garden, from the middle ages to the reformation it was held by the monks at the priory in Lewes. After a short spell owned by the crown the farm became known as Court Garden. The farm appears on one of the earliest maps of Sussex, Yeakell and Gardner's map of 1778-1783, just to the north of Ditchling. Not much has changed in the landscape since then.

The vineyard was established in the spring of 2005 on a beautiful south-facing slope with the South Downs as a backdrop, and is now one of the more charming vineyards in England. The family run single-estate vineyard now extends to 17 acres, mainly planted with the three classic varieties of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier for

the production of Sparkling Wine, and also Pinot Gris, Ortega, Rondo and Pinot Blanc for use in still wine. Two rare old varieties of Arbanne and Petit Meslier are grown as well.

Sussex shares similar geology to north-east France, the chalk of the downs runs beneath the Channel into France. In East

We will tour the vineyard and winery followed by a tasting flight of 4 wines.

Following the tasting is a wonderful buffet lunch consisting of the following:

Cold meat (home cooked) - ham & beef, Choice of two salads plus a potato salad, Quiche, Pickles (home-made) followed by homemade cake served with tea / coffee.

If you wish, still wine with the lunch is available for £5.00 per glass.

The cost for the tour, tasting and lunch is £50.00 per person.

We always hire a mini bus thru the Havant Borough and cost is £15.00 p/p.

A deposit of £15.00 p/p is required to reserve your space.

Mr. S Gorban

Sort Code 40-45-42

Account Number. 11658476

Hope you can join us,
Mike Miles and Steve Gorban

Interested? Contact Steve Gorban through the Daytrippers interest group on our (Ems Valley) web site.

Science and Technology Group Talk on Asbestos

For our July meeting STEM had a fascinating but disturbing talk on Asbestos by Roger KeVERN. I think it's fair to say most of knew absolutely nothing about the topic except that Asbestos is a Bad Thing!

That turned out to be not totally true – there are 6 types and some are worse than others for causing us serious harm. Roger explained how they identify exactly which type they've got in front of them – using polarised light microscopy. Of course they do!

But why was asbestos used at all? And from when?

Useage started in the 1870s for good reasons:

- It's very difficult to destroy (good in theory for buildings!)
- It has excellent sound and heat insulation
- It's got good chemical and fire resistance
- It's fibrous and therefore easy to weave – making it useful for so many things e.g. fire resistant gloves amongst hundreds of other every day items.

1965 was its peak use when it was being mixed with concrete for construction – and of course by 1992 everyone wanted Artex ceilings. But by then the red flags were being raised, with many people falling seriously ill in factories where asbestos was manufactured. Small bits of it can get into the lungs – and because of its make-up it's airborne when disturbed.

Steve McQueen died as a result of that aged 50, having Mesothelioma (cancer usually of the pleural cavity) from exposure during his early days of working.

By 1999 there was virtually no new use of asbestos, it having been banned in building materials . But it IS in a wide variety of building contents too numerous to list here. Inside hospitals, schools, prisons, it's everywhere. Despite strict rules we've all been exposed to it for sure. It's still a killer here in the UK , but there's nothing you and I can do about it now – just hope!

In 2020, 2,570 people died here in the UK of Mesothelioma
In 2021, it was 2,268.

Sobering figures.

Yet again, a really interesting and scary talk on something most of us had known nothing about.

Pam Palmer



Letter to the Editor:

Thanks Alan 😊 for the interesting article on the Tangmere museum. My mum and dad met at Tangmere. My Dad was a Royal Air Force military Policemen and my Mum was one of the WAAFs in the control room in World War Two. There is a plaque in the memorial garden with his name on, I am naturally very proud! **Jill Francis**

Garden Group Visit on 11 July 2023 to Beacon Square, Emsworth

The norm for our garden group visits is a car journey a bit further afield than gardens on our doorstep. However, when arranging our 2023 program we couldn't miss Beacon Square, Emsworth, so it became our July garden. A



beautiful garden owned by our member, Annette Wood, and certainly one not to be missed. It was wonderful to see so many group members, almost a full house.

We watched the weather with trepidation and even a few days before, when a 90% chance of rain was forecast. We contemplated cancelling. Imagine our joy and relief to be blessed with a glorious sunny morning – it doesn't like to rain in Emsworth - does it?!

Not only was the garden delightfully and artistically designed, with soft colours, cleverly intermingled with greenery, it also included interesting and unusual plants plus some of the largest dahlias you've ever seen, one was the size of a dinner plate! Garden designers recommend you shouldn't be able to

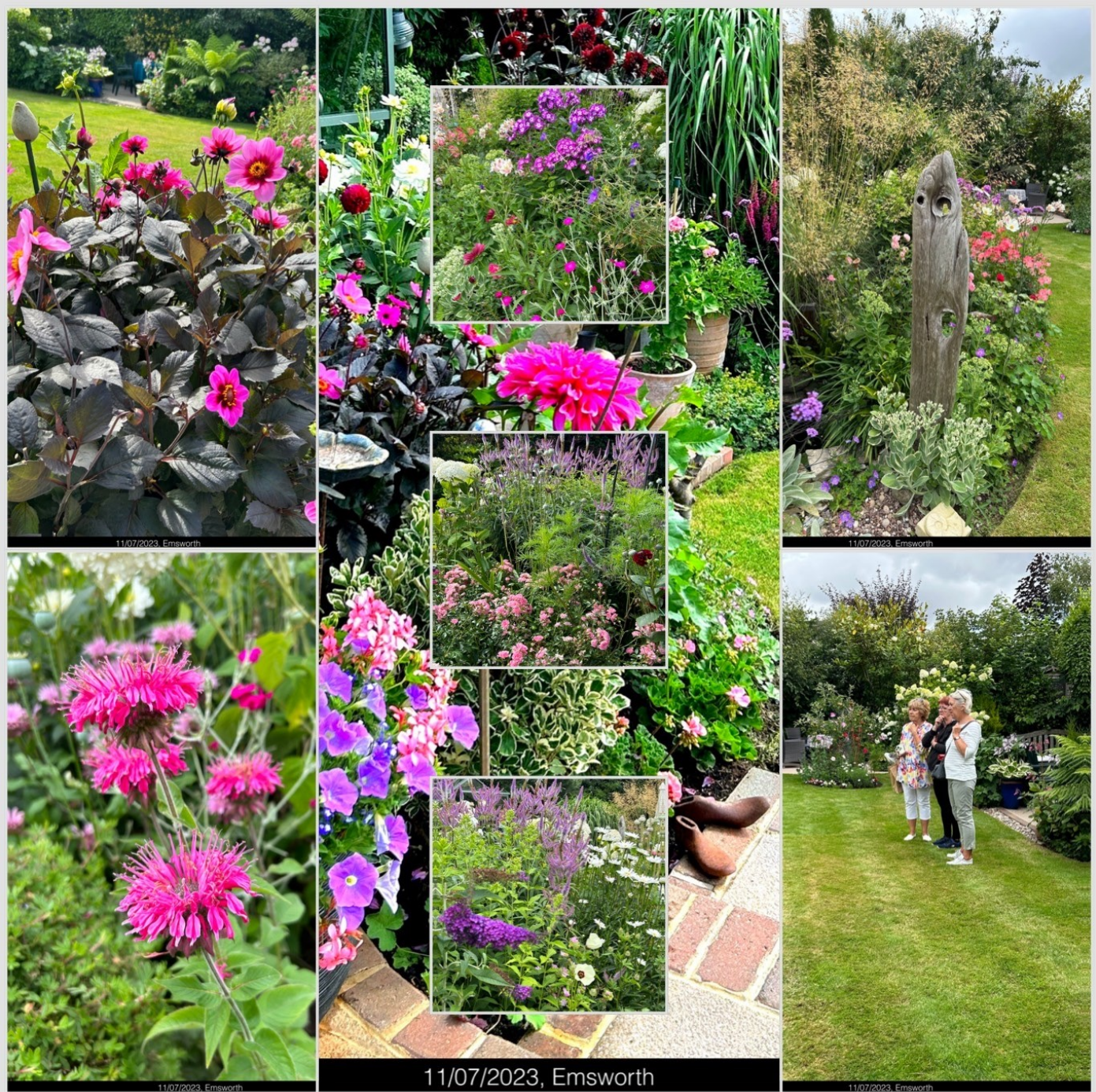
see the whole garden in one view and Beacon Square fitted that rule, it was a garden you had to walk around to find individual beds and little seating areas tucked away. One of the many comments heard was "Each little bed is a picture in its own right".

Many people asked what the garden was like when Annette moved in. She kindly gave us a folder of photographs of the garden from when the family moved to Emsworth in 1985 up to 1994. The transformation is certainly something Annette should be very proud of.



Diana Faithfull and Ronnie Tyler

Editor: Thank you Diana and Ronnie for the lovely montage of pics below:



STORY NUMBER ONE

Many Years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic, but he was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block.

Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him. Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object.

And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some resemblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

STORY NUMBER TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American-fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honour.

A Year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, if ever you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honour. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

DAYTRIPPERS Visit Parham House

Parham House is near Storrington, quite an easy trip from Emsworth! Steve Gorban discovered that they arrange a special tour of the house by well informed guide/historians about twice a year, and signed Daytrippers up for the August date. Thirteen lucky members took advantage of the trip and we were let into this historic house in the morning whereas the general public are only admitted in the afternoons. Steven was our guide for the morning and he welcomed our questions as well as giving an in depth talk in every room we passed through!



Today, Lady Emma Barnard resides here and she reminds us in her written welcome that Parham has been a cherished family home since its foundation stone was first laid during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1577. Her great-grandparents the Hon. Clive and Alicia Pearson bought the Estate in 1922. They opened Parham, with its lovely walled garden and rolling deer park grounds, to visitors in 1948. Parham is now owned by a Charitable Trust, and she still lives here with her husband and sons. She states

that Parham's tranquillity and beauty have changed little over the centuries, and we could well appreciate those words! There is something here for every body and every interest. The furniture attracts the constant attention of the Antiques Roadshow TV programme:



Every room we entered had a lively, fresh and colourful flower decoration which we were told was always kept up to date from the extensive gardens. (We later toured these and fully appreciated the wealth of different blooms!) The varied stories that the portraits told kept our minds buzzing! One that took my eye in particular was in the Green Room and featured a very large portrait of Omai, an Otaheitan chief from the South Sea islands (see pic) – What was he doing here I asked? He was the very first South Sea Islander to visit Europe and had been brought here by Captain Cook himself. Apparently there was an active relationship between those early explorers and the residents of Parham.

It appears that, over the years, the families who lived here were able to steer clear of the dangerous (and often lethal) political turmoil of their times, because it was never attacked or razed to the ground!

In the Second World War it first housed refugee

children and then had the excitement of hosting troops. Later, the matriarch (think of her as the equivalent of Lady Violet on Downton Abbey), we were told, used to enjoy sitting in the Long Gallery, pictured below right, as tourists filed through. She stayed anonymous and had a great time fielding questions and chuckling at inane comments. She especially liked it when complete strangers claimed that they had been guests of the family before the war—when she would have been their hostess! This gallery is the third longest Long Gallery in the country. These galleries were built in Tudor and Elizabethan times to showcase the family's treasures. Just as importantly, family members used the gallery to take long walks when it was pouring rain out in their gardens and woodlands.



Sometime in the 1960s, the family at Parham tired of the plain white ceiling of their Long Gallery. They had repaired and replaced the roof decades before, but the Gallery was beginning to bore them. So they hired an artist to add vines and branches. And some wildlife! A little owl perches on a branch, a magpie and other birds elsewhere and even some butterflies! See the photo above.

Alan Borrow

Ems Valley U3A Model Railway Group

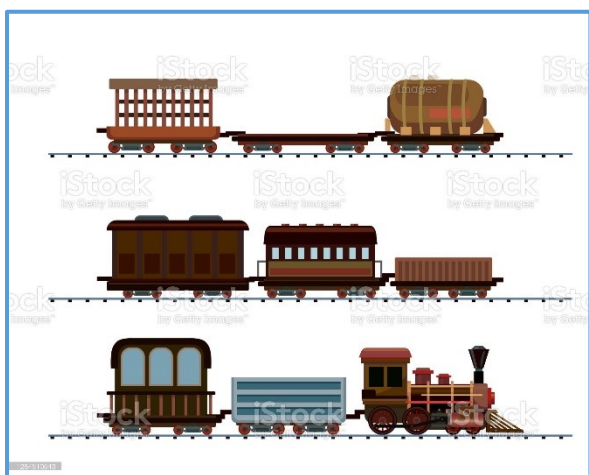
Our recent Model Railway Group meeting last week provided an excellent example of many of the things we get up to!

We were charged by Les to bring paper, pencil and eraser and, having been fed with John's delicious homemade biscuits and coffee, we were presented with a handout with some simple? low voltage electrical circuitry, mainly involving the use of diodes and signal lighting.

Being almost entirely "mechanical", even I began to grasp how diodes could be used to simplify the setting of multiple points, especially in any Fiddle Yard. (ie. An area of a layout, usually with several tracks and often hidden from view, where locomotives, carriages and wagons can be stored.) Les had investigated the subject when he found a lack of space on one of his control panels to install switches for a new siding that he had added to his extensive layout. His handout included a chart for us to work out which way round each diode should be placed.

He also indicated how a bridge rectifier can be used to deal with the problem of a "Reverse Loop". (Ask a Railway modeller what this is!)

John then demonstrated an electronic set-up he was working on that senses an obstruction (for example, a moving locomotive) which then activates an indicator light and/or signal. His next step is to add a time delay to the system. Work in progress.



Discussion was then held on whether signals were necessary on a layout, and if so, whether lights or semaphore signals were best. It was obviously desirable to have them, but there could be difficulty in their visibility, and the cost of semaphore signals was much higher. John could proudly boast that he had both types on his layout, which he demonstrated later. He also revealed that in an earlier life he had actually worked on the signalling system of the London Underground (just lights there, obviously!)

Having put our minds through some diode loops, signals were set clear to retire to John's extensive Hornby Dublo Three Rail layout. Les and I had experienced operating it before, but it was a first for Ian, whose own layout covers a slightly smaller area, and is much less complex due to its fairly recent construction. We learned that John's layout had its start many decades ago, was little used for a few more decades, but rejuvenated during Covid, to how it is today. Splendid.

John, had devised a running schedule which Ian and I managed, eventually, to grasp (despite dealing with a few typographical errors!). This included operating both light and semaphore signals. Very satisfying to successfully complete a session.

Before leaving, Ian revealed that he had been tempted into buying an N gauge layout. (N gauge is approximately half the size of 00 gauge.) We are all looking forward to seeing this.

I also explained that I plan to use a small part of our second bedroom for a very small 00 gauge layout, in order to use some Hornby track and controller that I have acquired, along with locos, carriages and trucks I had retained from a layout I had to leave behind when we downsized some years ago.

So, as you can see, it is all happening. Various sizes, complexities and stages of layouts, how we are learning from and with each other, and I haven't even mentioned Les's challenge to produce a water feature for a layout, nor his plan to use more diodes in other ways.

Peter Weller.

Watch this space, or even better, come and join us. Just contact our leader Les.

Brick Business – New season starts 26th September

Due to a number of requests, I am starting again, with the "History of the Brick from 10,000BC". I have altered the story slightly so that those few members who were attending in 2018 will not be bored! If this sounds interesting to you, the first session will cover 10,000BC to 50BC and new members are welcome to join us. Just send an email to me through the web site.

Alan Borrow

Emsworth Nostalgia:

Dolphin Quay 1950s



Queen Street Petrol – five shillings a gallon



The Station with just prams and horse and carts.....

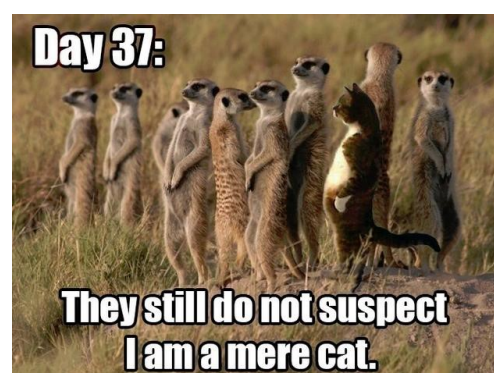
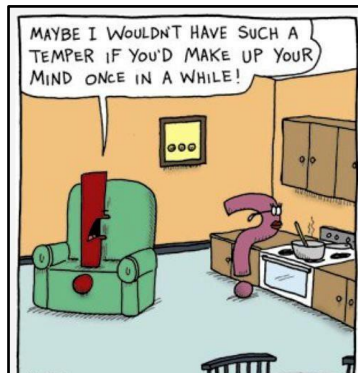
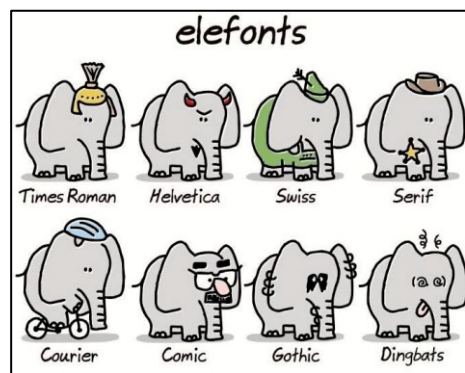
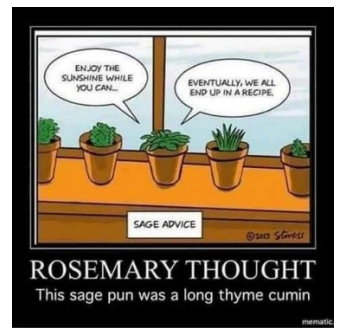
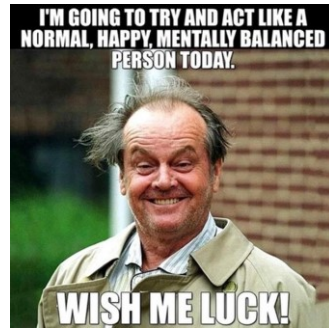
**In my mind
i'm still 24,
but my back is 55,
my knee is 67,
and my left hip
turns 79 next week.**



At a girl's college hostel, dates were permitted only on Saturday nights. One young man showed up on a Tuesday evening, explaining to an older woman in the lobby of the dorm that it was imperative he see a certain young lady immediately. "I want to surprise her. You see, I'm her brother." "Oh, she'll be surprised all right," said the woman. "But think of how surprised I am! I'm her mother!"

I'm so sick and tired of my friends who can not handle their alcohol. Last night they dropped me 3 times while carrying me to the car.

Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone? Do strangers call to pay my Bills? And if they do, why don't you let them?



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:
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