

Newsletter Early 2020



CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2019

This was once again held at the Langstone Hotel, and such has been the quality of the previous three visits there, this year was fully booked and 100 people turned up to socialise and enjoy a festive feast. The weather outside was horrendous, tipping down with rain, but most people managed to arrive on time, deposit their coats, find their table and either get a glass of something from the bar or accept a glass of red wine, white wine or orange juice to start the event. Dress ranged from DJ and posh frocks to a slightly more relaxed Christmas Jumper outfit. The waiting staff collected menu choices, then some 15 minutes later the starters of cream of leek & potato soup, warm tartlet of smoked ham & glazed mozzarella and terrine of smoked mackerel started appearing from the kitchen, and within a fairly short time the noise level dropped as everyone became occupied with the contents of their plates. The main course and sweet choices followed on in good time, with plenty of conversation between times, and at the end the staff brought the coffee round while Les gave a little speech. Another successful event arranged by Madeleine Cox.

Toni B-Reynaud

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From The (New) Chairman

There have been some changes on your committee. Les Pallet, your previous Chairman, stood down as his three year term had ended and I took on the role. John Righton has taken on the Webmaster role I used to do so that I was free to become Chair. John has a background in I.T. and I know he is very capable. Les will still be leader of the Model Railways group and lead the shorter of the two cycle rides.

Mike Hulse could no longer be the Speakers Secretary due to personal commitments but put in place a full set of bookings for this year which we are very grateful for. Trevor Raynor has come forward as Speakers Secretary and will meet and greet the speakers and organize future bookings.

The AGM was interesting for me. Due to Les being unable to attend as he was off colour, I found myself filling the roles of outgoing Chairman (reading Les's report), outgoing Webmaster, and incoming Chairman. Someone suggested that I should have worn three different hats according to which role I was doing. Happily I didn't have three hats with me.

Fortunately with plenty of support from other committee members and a kind audience, I think it went well. The fizz and nibbles afterwards helped with people's perception.

Les did a great job of Chairman achieving, amongst many other things, rewriting the constitution (with Alan Cox) and establishing the Very Useful Group. The VUG, led by Anne Fox-Robinson, have an important role to play in which they welcome people on the door at our monthly meetings and invite new members to coffee mornings to make them feel welcome and to match their interests with the available groups. Les has said many times that this is a friendly USA and the activities of the VUG are an important part of that. I think it's

friendly too and that is supported by what I have heard from new members. So thank you Les for your chairmanship. I expect it will take me a little while to "settle in" but I hope I will be able to do a good job for you all as well.

There are a few things on the horizon that will come our way and some that might. The Horticultural Society will be holding the Emsworth Show this year and all being well, I hope we will be able to participate. Jenny Morris, our Outings Co-ordinator, is in the process of organising a number of trips including one to the Royal Albert Hall for the Friendship Matinee in May or June. The last one we went to, Abbaphonia, was a splendid affair and tremendous value for money. Details of this and other outings will be announced at our monthly meetings and on the website

www.emsworthu3a.org when they are available.

And finally, you will be aware that there is great concern about Coronavirus. At the time of writing it doesn't directly affect us but If Government or Third Age Trust advice affects the operation of our U3A. your committee and I are watching the situation and will heed that advice. We will keep you informed of any resulting changes in the operation of our U3A.

With very best wishes to you all

Mike Polgreen

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The wine appreciation group could use a few new members to round out our roster. We take part in a fun and informative exploration of wine, discussing all aspects of wine from visiting vineyards, tasting and learning from our own members or wine experts who come to speak to us. Plus, an annual BBQ.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Mike Miles and Steve Gorban



Did you know that after January 14, 2020, Microsoft are stopping security updates and support for PCs using Windows 7? Now is the time to upgrade to Windows 10. (If you still use Windows XP then support ended several years ago!!) A number of our U3A members have used “*We Fix Computers*” at **Unit 11a, The Wren Centre, Westbourne** and found them very helpful with reasonable charges. Their quote for upgrading to Windows 10 with back-up and transfer of all your existing files and programs is £90 to £100. Contact at www.emscom.co.uk or 01243-887757. You might like to mention Mike Wood or Gail Wynne-Jones if you contact them.



RHYTHM & ROCK GROUP

We meet on the third Monday of each month in each others homes to listen to and discuss popular music from the last 60 years.

We are a friendly informal group who play CDs covering all styles of music from punk to heavy metal and folk rock to R&B.

The format is that a theme is set for the month and members bring along their contributions to that theme. We have covered Protest songs, songs about art (*Vincent, A Picture of You*), Weather songs (*Blowin' in the Wind, Over the Rainbow, Don't let the sun go down on me, Walk between Raindrops*), Time (*Rock around the clock, Unchained Melody Closing time, Three minute hero, 60 minute man*), Nautical songs (*Fog on the Tyne, Dock of the Bay, Sailing, Bridge over Troubled Waters, Yellow Submarine*), so you can see that there is plenty of room for all sorts of enjoyable music, and be sure that something new that you haven't heard before always crops up.



For more info please contact David Harris tel. 01243 378215 or email mydogisfinn@gmail.com

One Liners

Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end you wish you had a club and a spade

Home is where the dog hair sticks to everything except the dog

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain

"We have been friends for so long that I can't remember, which of us was the bad influence"

EMSWORTH U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

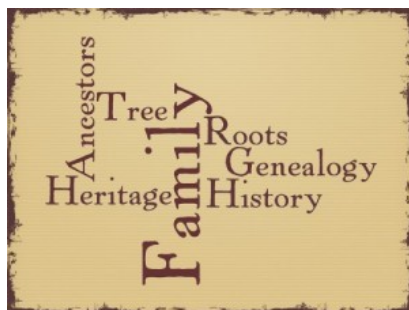
The Family History Group, although small, is alive and kicking. Over recent months we have heard of unexpected results of a DNA test and the follow up searches being pursued, and another member is hoping that involvement with the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers, of whom his predecessors were closely involved, will help to clarify many of the artefacts he has. People from Malta, the USA, Australia and numerous parts of the UK feature in our discussions, and recently we were delighted to hear that a member's "brick wall" had been broken down and further investigations can now be followed up.

A talk was given on the best ways to collect and store old documents and other artefacts, and discussion was held on the various ways of recording one's genealogical discoveries.

A trip to a Family History Fair enabled advice to be sought and received on a number of topics.

Magazine articles, software used and studies carried out by members is discussed and advice given on their use, and on occasions an investigation will be carried out using computers during the meeting. The use of Ahnentafel numbers and charts was recently demonstrated and a fascinating session on the dating of photographs by means of the clothes being worn caused much amusement and contributed to the relaxed atmosphere of the group.

We would be delighted to welcome new members, so come and see if we can help with your family history. Contact our Leader - Liz Mardel and arrange a taster session.



Peter Weller

Seenager

I HAVE JUST discovered my age group! I am a Seenager (senior teenager). I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's licence and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a Seenager. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise. SO THERE! I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

What the Butler Saw

The talk on 15th November was given by Dr Bob France who is a volunteer at both Petworth and Uppark House. He dressed in the style of the butler at Petworth in the early 1800s, and gave a most enlightening talk on What The Butler Saw, explaining among other things how the aristocracy dined in Georgian and Regency times. This included tucking the table cloth into your clothing instead of a napkin, and tipping the butler to bring you food from the other end of the dining table! After dining there was port and conversation for the gents, and the explanation of the toilet facilities and habits for both ladies and gents with the help of cartoons, caricatures and and pictures from the times gave rise to oohs, ahs and chuckles from the audience. The general description of how the households were run, the costs involved, and how the French saw the British at the time all helped to give us a most entertaining morning.



Yet another new visitor to our village. This one is a Chinese Swan Goose, who stayed on Peter Pond for a week or so. Obviously a rest period between other stops on his travels. There have also been a pair of Great Crested Grebes on the Mill Pond for the last few weeks. There's always something to see on our daily walks around and about.



COFFEE ROTA

Shown below is the rota for serving the tea, coffee and biscuits at the monthly meetings.

Depending on the size of Group there may be two Groups for any one month - will Group Leaders please liaise and ensure that at least four people from their Groups 'volunteer' for this duty.

If insufficient people turn up to provide the service then no refreshments will be served at that meeting!

2020	March	Hooks and Needles / Latin Revisited
	April	Poetry / Wine Appreciation
	May	Tai Chi
	June	Discussion 2 / Family History
	July	Opera Appreciation/ Rhythm & Rock

Emsworth U3A Cycle Group

The cycle group will now meet **every Thursday**. Start time is **9.30am** from the Emsworth Park on Horndean Road



There will be two groups, subject to turnout; the normal established 20/30 mile round trip with some hills and of course a coffee & cake stop, plus a second **more leisurely** group, riding around 8/12 mile round trip on as flat a route as we can make, with a coffee & cake stop at a suitable café on route.

The destinations for both rides will be decided on the day, subject to turnout and weather conditions.

So, as of now, everyone can enjoy a Thursday cycle ride, no matter what your fitness levels are, be you an experienced cyclist or just starting out.

Important notice

If at 08.30 on the day it is raining and the forecast is not looking good, the ride will be cancelled and an e-mail to that effect will be sent to all on the cycle group register.

Contact for Ride Leader James Powell 023 9245 2424 or 07922 455 625

To register for the group please e-mail jamespowell22@btinternet.com

Emsworth U3A Committee

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Gill Polgreen Membership Secretary 3 Esmond Close, Emsworth, PO10 7HX gill.polgreen@gmail.com 01243 389983	Bridget Watts Groups Co-ordinator bridget.watts@btinternet.com 07970 521815
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David Bittles Secretary davidbits@sky.com 01243 945494	John Righton Webmaster & Technical Co-ordinator James Powell Vice Chairman 02392 452424

Future Talks

Fri Mar 20th 2020	Lizzie Gilks: A Policemen's Lot Tony and Lizzie Gilks of Timespan70 will entertain us with a history of, and stories from, the early days of the police force.
Fri Apr 17th 2020	Colin van Geffen: The Story of the Schneider Air Races Colin van Geffen covers the history of the Schneider Trophy from its inception in 1912, to the last race in 1931 and beyond. A time when Britain led the world in aviation design and technology, and took pride in its achievements.
Fri May 16th	Malcolm Wells MBE: So Far So Good Army life during the Gulf War, behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace investitures and how to train a guide dog to use a washing machine.
Fri Jun 19th	Deborah Brady: A Female in Fleet Street The working life of a female reporter
Fri Jul 17th	Steve Herra: Cunard's History and Glamorous Stars Discover the history of the prestigious Cunard Line from 1840 until the present day

The Amble And Pub Lunch Group

We continue to thrive. In November we were scheduled to go from The White hart in Denmead, and planned to be on hard roads and tracks a lot of the time because of the likelihood of rain in November. The weather obliged and rained all day Saturday, was fine Sunday, but rained again Sunday night but was fine on Monday morning. As a consequence, although it was nice walking weather parts of the route that were stony tracks on



the recce were quite a lot more muddy than expected on the day. However, all 10 of us got round in good order with not too much mud clinging to us. There was a slight misunderstanding between the organiser and the land lady of the White Hart, but in the end the food from the Lunchtime Special menu was good quality and very good value for money.

The briefing for the December Amble included the words *“Please wear something festive for the occasion.”*, so we knew it was aimed at being part of the Christmas build-up. Festive bits there were, mostly Christmas jumpers but with the odd hat and head decoration in evidence. 21 of us arrived at The Barley Mow in Walderton ready to go on a bright but windy morning. The route took us over the road and up the hill to a loop on the Stanstead estate mostly on tarmaced lanes and flinty paths, but with a bit of mud thrown in to remind us that it really had been a wet couple of weeks previously. We passed by trees and shrubs, the remnants of felled trees, wide open fields and a typical downs beech hanger, all under a really sunny blue sky, returning to the pub in good time. The main attraction of the time



in the pub was the skittle alley, and lunch was a very good buffet which we ate between bouts of skittles. There were prizes for the winning team of three, and one for the lowest score (me

with a big ZERO!). The whole occasion was a resounding success, and our thanks went to Bill Dawes for organising it.

For January's Amble Tony Browne took us along the 'Stoughton Stumble' with lunch at the "Hare & Hounds". This was a tiny touch over 4 miles and involved some hills, almost no roads, only 1 stile and chalk underfoot to mop up any rain water. Due to heavy rain the couple of days before the event, there was a fair bit of shallow mud, and the chalky bits were a bit slippery in places, but most of us completed the route quite happily.



In February Pamela and Geoff led us on a 4.5 mile walk through Ashling Wood and Kingley Vale, starting by the old pumping station between Funtington and East Ashling. In one place lots of trees had been felled to cope with the results of Ash Die-back, and we had a chat with the

owner of one part of the woods about how trees were being cleared and managed, which was quite interesting. We did not go up to the Devils Humps but the view of the bowl from the bottom at coffee stop was quite impressive. Overall it was mainly flat with a couple of gentle inclines, slightly muddy in places but better than expected. Several non-walkers joined us for lunch at the Fox and Hounds at Funtington where sandwiches, bar meals and main meals were available, all to a good standard and with a good welcome from the landlord and staff.

For the March Amble, John and Esme concluded that the countryside was not walkable due to the amount of rain during that month, so the Amble took us instead from Clarence Pier along the seafront, around Southsea Common to view the Chinese Restaurant above which Peter Sellers was born, along the Millennium Trail to The Still and West, Camber Docks and Portsmouth Cathedral (where we spent ten minutes getting a brief history lesson) and back to the Brewers Fayre at Clarence Pier for lunch. The weather was fine and dry and a most enjoyable set of conversations were had as we followed the route.



Toni



Editor's bit

My thanks to all those who sent in items — please keep them coming. My email address is tonibr@btinternet.com, and there is a link to me on the U3A Emsworth website. My snail mail address is 12 Orchard Lane, Emsworth, PO10 8BH, so send letters here. I can accept offerings in just about any format. *Toni*