

Newsletter Mid 2022



Autumn colours on the creeper growing over the railway
arch

Letter from the Chairman

Along with groups and outings, our monthly meetings are an important part of what the u3a offers to members, it's not just the speakers' talks but also the chance for members to have a coffee and chat and to welcome new and prospective members. So it has been pleasing to see that attendance has gone back to normal levels. Gill Davies, our speakers secretary, has organised a varied and interesting selection of speakers to cater for all interests. You can see what's coming up by looking at our website "emsworthu3a.org.uk". Thank you to Sandy Bell for looking after it.

The Emsworth show went well. We were fortunate that our u3a stand was placed next to a popular coffee stand near the arena as last year which gave us excellent footfall. It was staffed by volunteers and committee members who told members of the public about us and what we do. The Off Quays, our sea shanties group, performed regularly during the day sometimes involving unsuspecting passers by. It was great fun. Many thanks to all of you who made it work.

We purchased our own "pop up" gazebo before the show this year as we had been borrowing one from another organisation for some years and it really was time we acquired one. It is dark blue and three metres square so neatly fits into the pitch we use at the show. It's possible for one person to put it up and easy for two or more. It will be useful for future shows and I hope we will be able to use it at other events too.

Maureen Nicholas, our events & outings organiser, has been busy this summer and organised two outings: Leonardslee gardens in May and Beaulieu motor museum in September. Garden outings are popular with members and Leonardslee was no exception. I heard good reports about the day. The Beaulieu outing went well too. I attended it, enjoyed the day and intend to return to see more of it. Watch out for news of the Christmas lunch which will be at Chichester College on Friday 2nd December. The college and students put on an excellent lunch last year and I'm sure they will again.

Committee members stand down before every AGM, and stand for re-election at the AGM. This is an opportunity for the membership to re-elect them or elect someone else. You might have noticed that I will have been Chairman for three years next February and before that I was the web administrator for two years, making a total of five years on the committee. I think that's long enough and it's time for a change so I don't intend to stand again for Chairman. That means we will need someone to fill the role. I'm sure there are members amongst us who would do an excellent job and hope that someone will volunteer to stand at the next AGM. If you think you would like to do it, please contact any committee member to find out more. There would be plenty of support from committee members (and me) to assist with the changeover. It is an interesting thing to do and a great opportunity to get to know the committee and other members and to "make a difference".

So that's all I have to say in this letter except that I hope to see you at our monthly meetings and the Christmas lunch.

With very best wishes to you all.

Mike Polgreen, Chairman

The u3a

When I moved to Emsworth in the spring of 2020,
I knew I'd make some friends of which there would be plenty.
In the local newspaper I saw a piece one day,
Telling me about the merits of joining the u3a

Learn, laugh and live it said. and it really got my attention.
And there's so much more to this organisation I could mention.
I decided to join that very day,
So out the door I went and I was on my way.

I met Gill on her doorstep,
Where I was persuaded to take one more step.
I joined up with the pub amble group,
And vary soon I met a fascinating troop.

I dreamt of walking along a beach in the sun,
And chatting to fascinating people all having fun.
Little did I know that a stile was a pain
And that some of these walks were done in the rain!

I knew I would enjoy a really interesting amble,
Even though sometimes it can be a bit of a scramble.
The sun and the sky and the smell of the brine.
Convinced me that I was having a good time.

I so enjoy a meandering walk,
And I enjoy even more an interesting talk,
Now my best friend is Mr. Voltarol,
And my next best friend is Mrs. Paracetamol!

There's nothing quite like a walk to a pub,
Where you know that most times there's some really good grub
And at the end of the day the best friend we know.
Lives in the fridge and his name is Mr Pinot.

Kim Shelley

Groups Coordinator's Report

By Adrian Wakeford

Emsworth and District u3a has thirty-four groups which makes for a thriving and varied range of activities and interests from which our members can choose. Most groups are full or approaching capacity and there are a number of activities that have more than one group. As an occasional visitor to groups it is really interesting to see the different directions and approaches taken by groups with the same interest.

As always there are a few thoughts that I have:

- So many groups are at capacity and have waiting lists. If you find yourself in this situation, I would urge you to take a chance and set up a second group.
- Groups can become over reliant on their Group Leader whereas, for obvious reasons, we need to think hard about developing another member of the group ready to shoulder the responsibility. Indeed in the case of one group there are multiple leaders, so they are ready for the tribulations of time and vigour.
- At the time of writing we are also looking for a replacement Group Leader for the Amble and Pub Group as Kim needs to step down
- We have not recently had any ideas for new groups. You never know; something about which you are a bit of a “nerd” might make the perfect interest for a new group. Help can be given to set up so why not set up that Heavy Metal Appreciation Group? (Or whatever.)
- And finally, I still lament the loss of our cycling group. With so much countryside and so many watering holes to our North, we obviously need an enthusiast to step (or pedal) forward.

Overall, the situation with our groups is good. Incidentally, the Committee will be reinstating the annual “Thank You Supper” for Group Leaders in the New Year after we are sufficiently past our various Christmas extravaganzas.



Board Games

The Board Games Group started earlier this year, meeting on the 4th Tuesday afternoons, excluding a few summer months. As a couple of members have moved away from the area, there are vacancies if people would like to join. For more information contact gill.polgreen@gmail.com or phone Gill on 01243 389983 We are a happy, casual, easy going group who are enjoying exercising our brains, learning new games or revisiting ones we already know. I have to admit we are quite good at also exercising our tongues and enjoy some chatter too. So far we have played Rummikub, Upwords, Mexican Train and Labyrinth. We were all very taken with Labyrinth at our September meeting, which has a simple concept, the idea being to create pathways on the board to allow your counter to travel along and collect treasures. But there is quite some strategy involved as well as luck, and it is common for your best laid plans to be sent awry by other players actions before it gets round to your turn again.

Do join us if it appeals to you.

Gill Polgreen



Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens

On May 5th forty seven of our members travelled by coach to Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens, near Horsham. The weather was good, and the gardens were at their best, with the rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom and very colourful. They have been described as: 'The finest woodland gardens in England.'

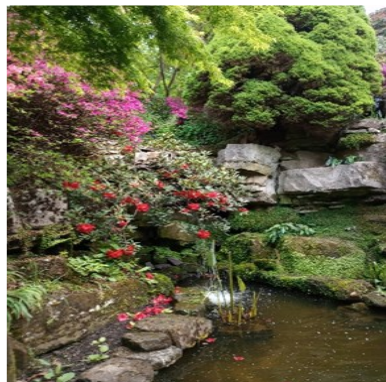
Other attractions were enjoyed too, including the Wallabies, the Doll's House Museum and the House itself.

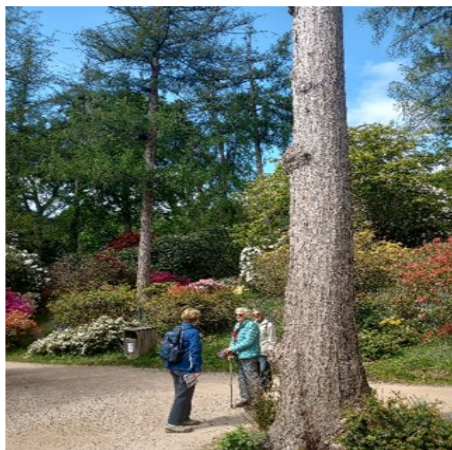
The visit was followed by lunch at the Hare & Hounds pub where we were catered for very well



Here are some of the comments from our members:

'Both of us felt we had never seen such a wonderful and varied display of rhododendrons and azaleas, not even at Kew! The rock garden was a real surprise and quite magical.'



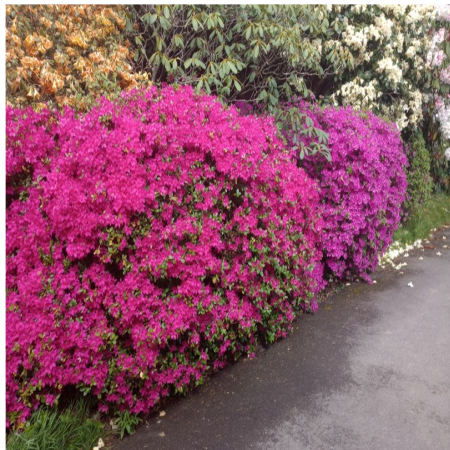
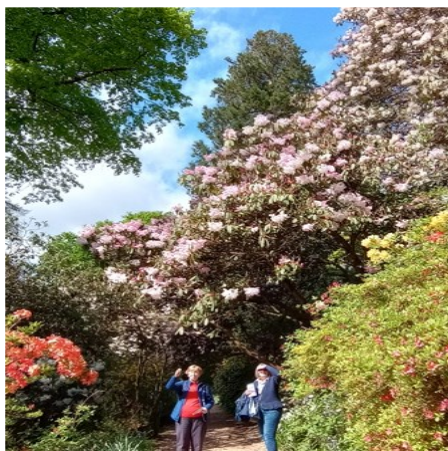


‘I think it was the trees that impressed me the most – those fabulous giant redwoods.’

‘The weather, garden, house and pub were all fantastic.’

‘A wonderful garden with wonderful walks, colour and transport back up the hill! Good lunch at the pub too.’

‘It was a perfect time to visit with a riot of colourful blooms.’





Geese as well as the wallabies.

'I could have spent much longer enjoying a fabulous day out.'



'I also enjoyed a peek into the ground floor of the House with gorgeous tiled floor and curious sculptures in the Art Gallery.'

Maureen Nicholas,
Events and Outings
Organiser



Outing to Beaulieu

On 15th September 41 members travelled by coach to Beaulieu. The weather was kind and there were so many attractions on offer, something for everyone.

Some really enjoyed exploring the Gardens; the colourful flower borders, the productive vegetable plots and the amazing topiary of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

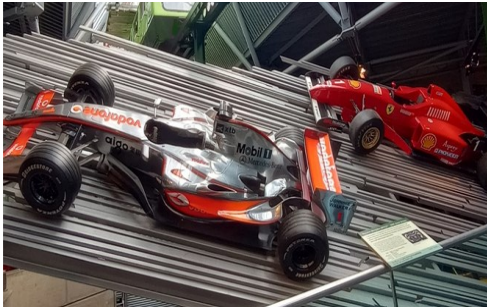
The Love Lock tree was intriguing, beautifully crafted with metal swirls and hoops.



The Millpond Walk featured interesting sculptures.

We were able to delve into the history of the Montagu family in the Palace House and the Abbey and I know a number of people were really interested in the Secret Army Exhibition.

The National Motor Museum was a big attraction and some enjoyed riding on the Monorail and Vintage Bus.



We were able to eat our picnic lunches in the grounds or sitting on the side of the Beaulieu River, while some enjoyed lunch in the restaurant In the words of one member, "It was a great day out."

Maureen Nicholas





CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Emsworth & District Christmas Lunch is being held at Chichester College on Friday 2nd December. The cost is £25.50 per head which includes a welcome drink and a three course meal followed by coffee and mince pies. You must confirm your booking with payment no later than the Monthly Meeting on October 21st.



Fri Oct 21st	Malcolm Wells MBE "So Far So Good". Malcolm will tell us about his time at Canine Partners as their National Speaker. Also his experience of 24 years in the Army as a musician playing cello on state occasions and banquets and as a medical assistant in the first Gulf War.
Fri Nov 18th	Graeme Payne - "Queen Mary 2's World Voyage". Graeme has been speaking to groups about travel-related subjects for over 40 years. He has worked in the airline, shipping, and rail industries. He is a regular speaker on Cunard, Saga, and Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.
Fri Jan 20th 2023	Trevor Davies - "History of Emsworth Museum"
Fri Feb 17th 2023	Beryl Francis - recently retired Councillor for Havant
Fri Mar 17th 2023	Bob Comlay - "Travels with Tilman" Bill Tilman's climbing and sailing achievements rank among the greatest in the fields of 20th Century mountaineering and deep sea cruising, and his books remain essential reading for many who embark on similar ventures. By the time of his disappearance in the South Atlantic in 1977, he had left a legacy of some of the finest travel books ever written. Bob Comlay sailed over 10,000 miles with Tilman in Arctic Waters.
Fri Apr 21st 2023	David Gane - "Statistics"

Emsworth U3A Committee

Mike Polgreen mcpolgreen@gmail.com 01243 389983	Chairman	Adrian Wakeford Groups Co-ordinator adrian.wakeford@gmail.com 07860 189099
Maureen Nicholas Events and Outings organiser. maureennicholas7@gmail.com 07745 172890		David Bittles Secretary davidbits@sky.com 01243 945494
Hazel Irwin Membership Secretary Sunnyside, 6 Jeppson Walk, Nutbourne, PO18 8FZ hazel.i@btinternet.com 01243 940310		Sandy Bell Webmaster & Technical Co-ordinator Meeting Technical Support sandy.bell43@outlook.com
Kenneth Laing klaing@ntlworld.com 01243 434341	Treasurer	Gill Davies Speaker Organizer gilldaves21@hotmail.com 01243 372171

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 three 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

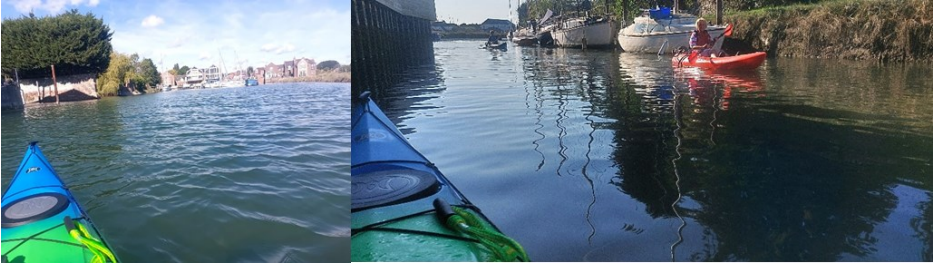
2022	October	Classical Music App / Listening to Jazz
	November	Science, Engineering & Tech / Mahjong
	December	<i>No meeting</i>
	January	Theatre Group / Opera Appreciation
	February	Wine Appreciation / Art Discovery
2023	March	Discussion 1 / Gardens 2
	April	Board Games
	May	Amble & Pub lunch
	June	French Discussion / Rhythm & Rock
	July	Sea Shanties / Creative Writing 1
	August	<i>No meeting</i>

Remember to look at our website -lots of useful information on there.
www.emsworthu3a.org.uk

Of Kayaks, Challenge and Chaos

By Adrian Wakeford

So there is this band of Emsworth individuals, mostly from the Emsworth u3a though not a formal group, that think that nearby water must be enjoyed through the pastime of kayaking. Usually it works out well and a pleasant paddle can be had around the shores of Emsworth and the local area. But there have been some excitements and adversities over the summer!



Looking down Slipper Mill Stream

And back up

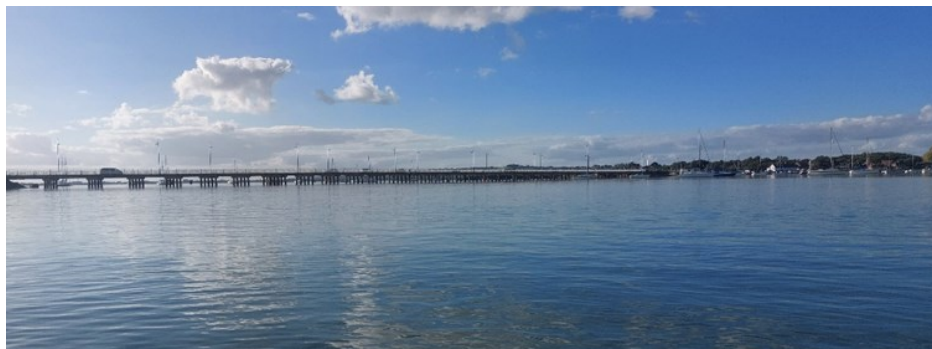


Misjudge the tide and things can get messy!

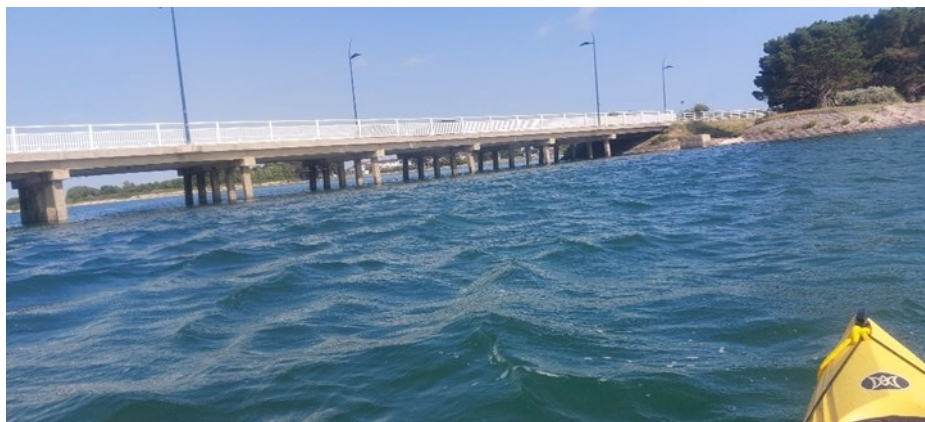
We self-rescued from our predicament but Emsworth mud is deep, sticky and it pongs!



Yet in the good weather a pleasant dip can be taken at Fowley Island with no thoughts of mud and slime!



And a paddle along to the Langstone Bridge can be gentle,
or perhaps a little choppy!



Whether your paddle is eventful or not,
good views of Emsworth, Thorney Island and
Hayling Island are certain. And a peaceful
stillness can settle when you just drift and
take it all in.



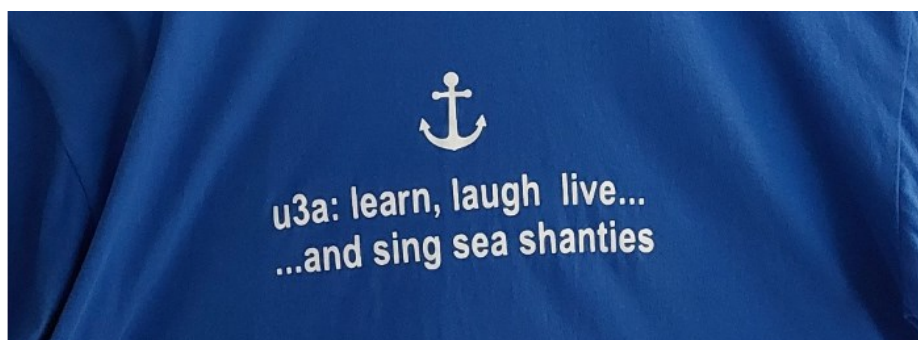
The Emsworth Off Quays - Sea Shanties Group

By Adrian Wakeford

Where did that year go since somebody came up with the outlandish idea to set up a Sea Shanties group? Well, it is pretty well established now with twenty six members and a few spaces still left. Typically we get twelve or thirteen members at each meeting, and we now meet twice a month. We are so established that we even have our own T Shirt, courtesy of Marilyn Kemp's industrious efforts:



The point of the group is to live up to and go a bit beyond the u3a motto:



It can be a bit tricky to balance the element of fun and to try to set some challenges and make some reasonable improvements. I think that we do that and even though we do not seek out “gigs” we did this year perform at both the Westbourne Fete and the Emsworth Show. The latter we did as last year with the crew bursting into shanties when there was a gap in the arena programme. So, a successful year and now to make steady improvements while keeping keen and jolly.



When Insults Had Class

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words. (Found on allowe.com)

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.”—*Winston Churchill*

“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.”

—*Clarence Darrow*

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn’t it.”—*Groucho Marx*

UNCONDITIONAL

He lays there in the hot summer sunshine,
She studies his face and his receding hairline,
She recalls his walk, his ungainly gait.
He seems to be putting on more weight.
His memory is unreliable.
Some things are undeniable.. ..
She loves him.

The Spring that was in his step has faded,
She wonders if their romance is jaded.
He mumbles as he sleeps or is he snoring.
Sometimes she thinks he's just so boring.
She remembers he's forgetful.
It makes her so fretful
She loves him.

The Summer's hot and she's forgot
Their courtship was so blissful.
In the misty heat she can repeat
The times they'd been so wishful.
That they could travel and so unravel
The memories they created.
When their hearts were young and they had such fun
With a love so unabated
She loves him.

He stirs and she sees he has awoken,
Their eyes meet and feelings are unspoken.
He never moves fast as he did in the past,
And his movements are deliberate.
He studies the scene with a stare so keen,
His comments can be indelicate.
A wordless exchange is all
As the time goes by and into Autumn they fall
She loves him.

Winter doesn't mean you should end your dream
Or even think of buying,
The things you desire to make you higher
Than anywhere you've ever been.
Love does such things no season brings,
And no inclement weather
Can slow or halt without default
The things that brought them together
She loves him.

She ponders how right here and right now
How they ever came this far.
If she changed her mind would she find
That true love is no bar
To commitment and fulfilment
And a life that's so contented,
She loves him.....
He loves her.....
It's unconditional.

* * * * *

A highly dangerous virus called "Weekly Overload Recreational Killer" (WORK) is currently going around. If you come in contact with this WORK virus, you should immediately go to the nearest "Biological Anxiety Relief" (BAR) centre to take antidotes known as "Work Isolating Neutralizer Extract" (WINE) or "Radioactive Unwork Medicine" (RUM) or "Bothersome Employer Elimination Rebooter" (BEER) or "Vaccine Official Depression Killing Antigen" (VODKA).



The 8th day, God created Seniors

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

More classy insults

“I didn’t attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.”

—Mark Twain

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.” —Oscar Wilde

“I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... if you have one.”

—George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

“Cannot possibly attend first night; will attend second, if there is one.”

—Winston Churchill’s response to George Bernard Shaw

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*