

## Newsletter Early 2023



A good view of the Emsworth Lobster Pot Christmas Tree

*Photo: Dominic Joyeux*

## Letter from the Chairman

First of all, Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a nice festive season.

Don't forget that our AGM this year will return to its traditional place in the calendar on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, which is the third Friday of the month. We were obliged by lockdowns to change the month of the meeting and we have gradually returned to February. Last year we combined the AGM with a regular monthly talk which was well received, so we plan to do the same this year. Information about that and our other meetings can be found on our website: [emsworthu3a.org.uk](http://emsworthu3a.org.uk). I hope you are able to join in.

Last October Gill and I went to "u3a Explores Science" at the Royal Institution which was good. We learned about supermassive black holes and electric motors and saw interesting demonstrations involving flashes, bangs and a galvanic battery demonstration that didn't involve frogs' legs. (Unlike Galvani's original which did). The lecture theatre, where the televised Christmas lectures take place, is surprisingly compact and every seat has a good view. There were a few empty seats which would have been disappointing for the organisers and I wondered whether it had been advertised effectively by the u3a. We found out about it in a small easy to miss article in the TAM magazine that many of us receive. So if you like that sort of thing, keep an eye out for it as they said they would do another this year. It really is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy this historic building which has been so important in the history of science.

Our Christmas lunch at Chichester College was a splendid affair again. The young students who looked after us did a great job and lunch was very nice. I'd like to say a big thankyou to Maureen and friends who put so much work into organising it.

Some of you might have noticed that our website, [emsworthu3a.org.uk](http://emsworthu3a.org.uk), has been behaving strangely. The Third Age Trust (TAT) who organise the hosting service were let down by the American hosting company, TSO Hosts, who decided that it didn't want the business and deleted all of our data. There has been much work at the TAT and in local u3as to rebuild our websites which are now hosted in the UK and that work is mostly complete now. The only remaining task is for group leaders who edit their own pages to reload their pictures and other files which could not be recovered.

This is my last letter to you as Chairman because I have served for three years and it is time to make way for another to be elected at our AGM. I've enjoyed doing it and hope I've been of some service. I'll still be around and intend to take part in more group activities. Don't forget that the committee will still need one or two additional members and that it's a great way of getting to know more people and to be "in the loop".

So that's all from me. With very best wishes to you all.

*Mike Polgreen*, Chairman

Why wouldn't the shrimp share his treasure?

Because he was a little shellfish!

## Book Group 1

Over the past year we have enjoyed meeting in member's gardens on warm, sunny days and now, in the winter months, in member's homes, where we have been made welcome with delicious cakes and coffee.

Some of our chosen books have, quite understandably, proved more popular than others, with Ben Elton being one of our favourite authors, so I am looking out for more of his work on the library list.

Our book for December 22/January 23 was 'Behind the Scenes at the Museum' by Kate Atkinson. I wasn't sure if all our members would manage to read it over a time of celebration, but most found it fascinating and difficult to put down. It engendered a lively discussion at our last meeting which was kindly hosted by Lin Davy. We are now looking forward to our next meeting, generously hosted by Christine Brown, when we will be discussing our latest book- Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

*Ruth Foster*, Book Group 1



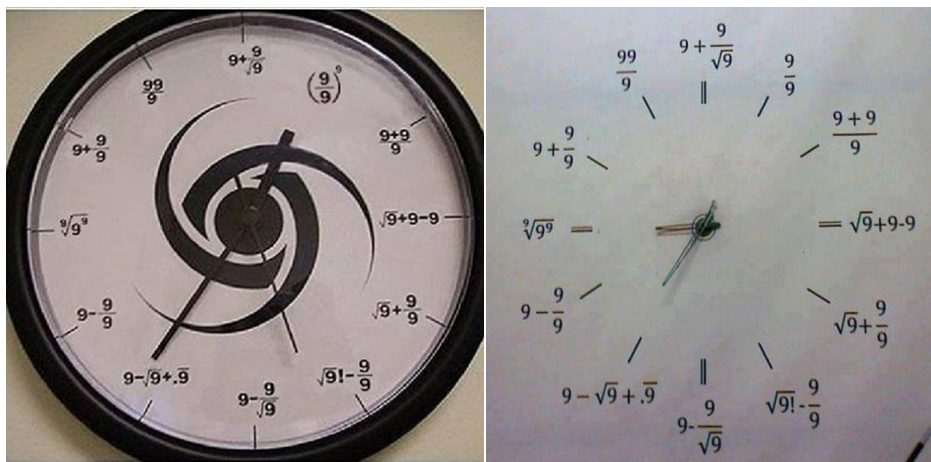
What do ducks do before Christmas dinner?

Pull their Christmas quackers!

## A clock face made from three nines

Below are two versions of a clock face with each number derived from three 9s. If you wish to be precise, correct or just finicky, one of the two pictures may be said to have an incorrect calculation/figure. It's up to you to decide if that is a correct statement and whether you agree or disagree. No prizes, but if sufficient people are interested, I could show the arguments for and against in the next newsletter (including mine, but I'm definitely NOT a mathematician, so my logic/argument could be (and probably is) faulty). Comments/argument from you via email please.

*Toni*



### This is a nice communication to receive.....

I am a new member to Emsworth U3A group and became a member predominantly to join the board game group. I went along to the group and was very warmly welcomed, loved playing Rummikub (think this is right name) which I found got the grey matter thinking. So this really is to urge anyone who is thinking of joining a group to do it as I am sure you will have a warm welcome. Thank you

*Jane Macswayne*

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?

Mistle -toad!

## Phobile Moans

He stares at his phone as she feeds him information,  
Her star is in ascension while his is in declination.  
He fumbles, she mumbles,  
Their pathways are diverging.  
She grumbles, he stumbles,  
Troubles are emerging.  
it's been a while since they shared a smile  
Or even spoke in earnest.  
They won't get by it they just stay shy  
And never try their hardest.

She thinks he's spent, he thinks she's lent  
Her attention to another.

He'd like to bring a fix to this thing  
But then thinks "Why do I bother?"  
Her mind has gone. long, long gone,  
To somewhere far away.  
it's a waste of time to keep her mind  
Where it's wasted every day.

He can't find how to make up his mind  
And resolve the situation.  
Should he walk or should he talk '?  
Does he have the inclination  
To speak the words she's seldom heard  
About their situation ?

As he puts his phone away and decides this is the day  
To talk about the thing  
That's been on his mind. and try to find  
The moment to bring  
A resolution to the problem.

She takes out her phone  
And her thumbs work furiously.  
From his pocket a ding.  
He looks down curiously.  
At the message received. he'd never believed  
She'd send him.  
What a fool he's been, a novice, a beginner  
"Where shall we go tonight for dinner?"

*Kim Shelley*

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?

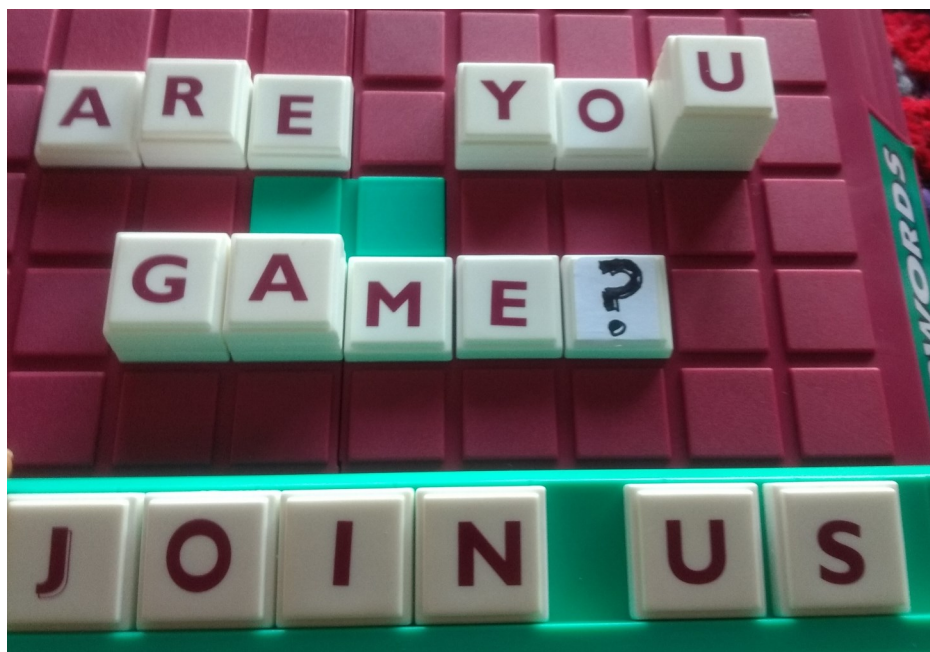
Freeze a jolly good fellow!



## Are you game?

If you feel a bit bored, nothing beats a good board game. Like a dog, a board game is not just for Christmas. The board games group can guarantee an afternoon with no boredom, nor loneliness, plenty of fun, chatter and even some intellectual stimulation. The house is warm with a log fire, if needed. Log fires aren't just for romantic country cottages, you know. And the tea is made from the finest ingredients the Co-op can provide.

Sadly at the railway station you won't find a train many days, but at our games afternoon we can play Mexican Train. No striking drivers there. We can boggle your mind with word games, test your powers of deduction with Cluedo, exercise your adding skills with Crib, and your ability to plan a complicated winning move to use up your tiles in Rummikub. That's one where most of us at some point have said "oh and now I've forgotten what I was going to do with that spare tile." Our minds are absorbed and the woes



Why wouldn't Santa ride on his sleigh?

There were elf and safety concerns!

of the world, the cost of a loaf, which politician has committed a new misdemeanour this week, or who is on strike today are all forgotten. We like a new challenge and are open to suggestions from group members for new games to play.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon of the month at my house in Emsworth. We have 9 members in the group but space for a few more, so if you would like to join us or just come once to give it a go and see if you like it, contact me on 01243 389983 or [gill.polgreen@gmail.com](mailto:gill.polgreen@gmail.com)

Gill Polgreen



What is the best Christmas present in the world?

A broken drum... you just can't beat it!

### **My best Christmas present this year?**

Just beginning to wonder if my youngest son ( age 29 ) had forgotten to buy me a Christmas present this year.

He surprised me with a visit yesterday with my present, a small ornament made with 2 kiwi birds standing on a branch made of wood. When he saw this he was reminded of me reading to him when he was a little boy. The book was stories based on animals of New Zealand, sent to him by a friend I did my nurse training with in 1978 at the Royal Free in London, who has since emigrated to New Zealand. A memory out of the blue for him, and an ornament I shall always treasure!

*Carol Stuppel*

I accidentally gave my wife a glue stick instead of a lipstick.  
She still isn't talking to me.

### **Local facilities**

I was fascinated to hear that the playground at Monks Hill Westbourne was granted by Admiral Sir Provo William Parry Wallis in 1859. He lived in Funtington. Wallis had an illustrious career in the Royal Navy, and he still holds the record for the length of service of 96 years and nine months , having joined when he was just four years old and serving until the day he died at 100 years old in 1892. I think we are lucky to have such a lovely recreation area in Westbourne, thanks to William Parry Wallis.

*Carol Stuppel*

### **More classy insults**

"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*

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?      Because he had low elf esteem!



## STACEY DENTAL FLOSS

Stacey Denton gets cross  
When she's called "Dental Floss"  
She has beautiful teeth  
That defy all belief,  
So she brushes and scrubs  
And most carefully rubs  
In and out, down and round  
Till they're perfectly sound.

With her face all askew  
She pulls tape up and through.  
Every tooth she must clean  
Till they sparkle and gleam.  
After chocolate or cheese  
Yet again she will squeeze  
On her minty toothpaste.  
Not a scrap does she waste.



After cream cakes and chips,  
Plums, or apples with pips,  
She is at it again  
To remove every stain,  
Cleaning crevice and crack  
Shifting food stains and plaque  
What a mouth of milk white,  
Always polished and bright.

With exceptional style  
And big sunny smile,  
An example to all,  
Standing quite four feet tall,  
She outshines other girls  
For her teeth are like pearls.  
Of course! Stacey gets cross  
When she's called "Dental Floss"!

*Valerie A Godwin*

Where does Santa keep his money?

A snow bank!

## The Mirror

My shaving mirror is broken,  
It looks so out of place.  
Each time I look into it  
I see someone else's face.

I see receding temples in my hairline.  
And crows feet all around my eye line.  
My bloodshot eyes are no surprise  
Due to late nights by the telly.  
And the meals I eat are such a treat  
But they're no good for my belly

The mirror lies to my surprise  
My face is not my own.  
My jowls are low and grey hair grows  
Where brown hair once had grown.

It's someone else I'm looking at,  
Of that I am quite sure of.  
My double chins and my hair that thins  
How I wish I had much more of.

My mirror must be lying!  
That is not my face!  
It seems that without trying  
My features are out of place.

My sagging cheeks and hairy ears  
Don't look like my own.  
I can't see who I'm looking at  
Beyond the worried frown.

Who is this that I'm looking at?  
That makes me feel so bad ?  
Oh, no! It can't be!  
I'm turning into my iPad!

*Kim Shelley*

Why did the turkey join the band?

Because it had the drumsticks.



## Christmas Lunch

The Emsworth & District u3a Christmas Lunch was held at Chichester College on Friday 2nd December. It included a welcome drink and a three course meal followed by coffee and mince pies. Some travelled by train, some by bus and some by car, but we all got there in time. As last year, the venue was looking good when we arrived, and the staff, both full time and trainees, looked after us all very well. The service was good, the food superb, the drinks as required. In fact it was an excellent occasion all round.

*Toni Reynaud*



Who hides in a bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy.

## Monthly meeting talks for 2023

Fri Mar 17th	<b>Bob Comlay - "Travels with Tilman"</b> Bill Tilman's 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	David Gane - "Statistics"
Fri May 19th	<b>Brian Freeland - "The View from the Wings"</b> Brian's talk relates to his experiences with everything called Variety. (Butlin's Holiday Camps, the London Palladium to the Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, Scottish Opera and Sadler's Wells Ballet) The Manager's view from the prompt corner is very different from that from your comfortable seat in the stalls or the circle!!
Fri Jun 16th	<b>William Avenell - "Why was the Shepherd Delighted?"</b> We have all grown up listening to weather lore handed down over generations but is there any real truth in any of it and where has it all come from?

## Emsworth U3A Committee (at the time of writing)

<b>Mike Polgreen</b> <a href="mailto:mcpolgreen@gmail.com">mcpolgreen@gmail.com</a> 01243 389983	Chairman	<b>Adrian Wakeford</b> Groups Co-ordinator <a href="mailto:adrian.wakeford@gmail.com">adrian.wakeford@gmail.com</a> 07860 189099
<b>Maureen Nicholas</b> Events and Outings organiser. <a href="mailto:maureennicholas7@gmail.com">maureennicholas7@gmail.com</a> 07745 172890		<b>David Bittles</b> Secretary <a href="mailto:davidbits@sky.com">davidbits@sky.com</a> 01243 945494
<b>Hazel Irwin</b> Membership Secretary Sunnyside, 6 Jeppson Walk, Nutbourne, PO18 8FZ <a href="mailto:hazel.i@btinternet.com">hazel.i@btinternet.com</a> 01243 940310		<b>Sandy Bell</b> Webmaster & Technical Co-ordinator Meeting Technical Support <a href="mailto:sandy.bell43@outlook.com">sandy.bell43@outlook.com</a> 01243 378842
<b>Kenneth Laing</b> <a href="mailto:klaing@ntlworld.com">klaing@ntlworld.com</a> 01243 434341	Treasurer	<b>Gill Davies</b> Speaker Organiser <a href="mailto:gilld Davies21@hotmail.com">gilld Davies21@hotmail.com</a> 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*

<b>2023</b>	March	Discussion 1 / Gardens 2
	April	Board Games
	May	Amble & Pub lunch
	June	French Discussion / Rhythm & Rock
	July	Sea Shanties / Creative Writing 1
	August	No meeting
	September	Birdwatching / Creative Writing 2
	October	Scrabble 2
	November	Book Groups 1 & 2
	December	No meeting

Any queries please contact:

Bridget Watts, [bridget.watts@btinternet.com](mailto:bridget.watts@btinternet.com) or  
Maureen Nicholas, [maureennicholas7@gmail.com](mailto:maureennicholas7@gmail.com)

Remember to look at our website – lots of useful information on there.

[www.emsworthu3a.org.uk](http://www.emsworthu3a.org.uk)

What happens when Father Christmas gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia!



## **A Caribbean cruise experience**

Having seen a lot about tall ships at one time or another, I became aware of a holiday that would allow me to sail on one. This was to be on the Royal Clipper, a huge ship with 5 masts, 42 sails, a sleek silhouette, a luxurious interior, 102 crew, up to 227 passengers and excellent 4 star dining. This stunning ship evokes a bygone era of traditional seafaring, but I would be able to try it without all the hardships that the crew used to endure.

We left the cold British winter weather and had a nine hour flight to Barbados where we had three days at a beach resort hotel to get over the flight, get used to the lovely warm weather and meet some of the other passengers. One of them was a repeat voyager, coming on the same cruise every year for four to six weeks, so things looked good. On the afternoon of the fourth day we transferred to the Royal Clipper, and settled into our cabins. These were to a standard reminiscent of the Titanic, totally luxurious and with very attentive staff looking after us. Later we gathered on deck for the setting sun ceremony of hoisting the sails on all the five masts. It was quite a spectacle with the atmospheric Conquest of Paradise music by Vangelis playing as all 42 sails went up, and promised a good holiday.

The cruise was organised so that we sailed overnight and anchored each day, in the harbours of Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and back to Barbados. It was possible to swim off the stern of the ship (which I did up to 5 times a day), and the beaches on each island provided superb swimming in aquamarine warm water, gentle waves and with plenty of sea life, fish and turtles, and the facility to kayak, snorkel and sail from them. The islands provided a huge mix of cultural sites, from museums, historic forts, palm forests, botanic gardens and bustling local markets that we could visit on trip organised from the clipper. There were also lectures on various subjects each day, and evening entertainment including a Talent Night, where some of the guests put on a good show with singers, sea shanties, and a hand puppet show.

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson



I am so thrilled to have done this holiday, a wonderful nautical experience that was everything I had hoped for. It would have been my perfect holiday, if only I had not felt so motion sick on the two long legs from and to Barbados – I did wonder if a hammock like the original crew used to have would have improved that part of the trip.

*Ann Fox-Robinson*

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas quacker

## Group Leaders and helpers Lunch

Some while back, I and others received the following.....

### **Chairman's Invitation**

*Our u3a could not function without the continuing work of Group Leaders and other key helpers. To show our appreciation for these invaluable services, the Committee is inviting current and recent Group Leaders plus other key helpers to a "Thank You" Lunch. As one of this invaluable group, you are invited to attend this event which will be held in the Emsworth Community Association Hall, North Street, Emsworth at 12 noon on Wednesday 1st February next year. The lunch will use, wherever possible, locally sourced produce.*

Well, no-one likes to turn down a free lunch, so I (and many others) accepted. It's not just the free lunch, but the chance to talk a little bit of shop and to see how other parts of the organisation get on. We all duly turned up at the Community Centre, and there was plenty of general social chatter and of course a lot of useful transfer of information about how groups are organised, the level at which they work, and how it's all going.

The meal, provided by Tuppenny Barn, was either Beef or Vegetarian lasagne with Tuppenny Barn green leaf salad, ciabatta and butter. There were quite generous portions, but once we started eating it was found to be delicious and there wasn't a lot left. A glass of wine, fruit juice or water helped things along, and there was coffee available afterwards. Mike Polgreen addressed the group, thanking us for the work and reminding us to spread the word



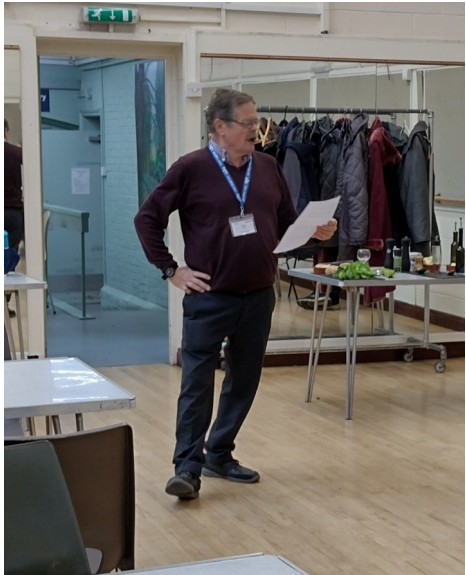
What does a transvestite do on Christmas Day? Eat, drink and be Mary.

that if there isn't a group in which we or someone else might be interested, we can always start our own—it doesn't take a lot and has been done at least twice in the last year.

The social aspect of the event was such that we had to be encouraged to leave lest we overstay the allotted amount of time in the room, so it must have been successful.

Our thanks to the organisers for a good social occasion.

*Toni Reynaud*



This was seen at a local garden centre, perhaps encouraging u3a members and other pensioners to find the (final) exit?

*Ray Davies*

### Three stages of life

TEENS: you have all the time and energy but no money.

WORKERS: you have the energy and money but no time.

SENIORS: you have all the time and money but no energy.

LESSON: enjoy life and all the things you have at the moment, because you can't have everything at once.



# Out and About – By Bike, by Kayak and on Foot

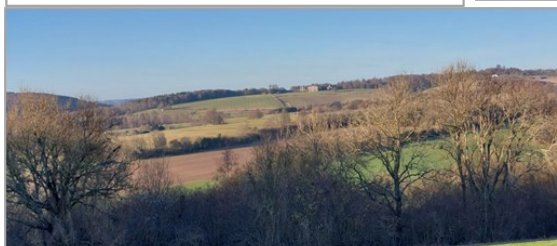
*By Adrian Wakeford*



*A black swan in among the white at West Ashling Pond*



*Evening light in Emsworth Park*



*Uppark House on the horizon*



*Flood on the road to West Marden*

*Looking towards Emsworth from Fowley Island*



*Kayaking up by Slipper Mill Pond towards the Old Flour Mill*

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsillits!



*Emsworth harbour looking West towards the bright light of the Spinnaker Tower (also to Venus and Jupiter, though not visible in this photograph)*



### Groups Coordinator

The Emsworth and District u3a has 33 groups with the largest, Amble and Pub Lunch, having 55 members. Most groups meet in members' houses and are in the five to twelve members size. However, three groups meet in local halls with members contributing to hire cost.



*The Shanties Group with John Burton on accordion*

Though a Board Games Group has been set up with a new leader and some groups have had the leadership role passed on, getting new or replacement Group Leaders to step forward remains problematic. We will need to think harder about leadership in the next year.

One of our longest serving Group Leaders, Margaret Harry, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and our heartfelt thanks at the January Meeting. She and her late husband, Ken, were great servants of our u3a for many years as many of you will know. Margaret has now left the Emsworth area and we wish her well in her new home.

A "Thank You" Lunch was arranged for Group Leaders and other volunteers on 1 February. It was a very convivial event enjoyed by all. These lunches were run before the pandemic. Hopefully, they can become an annual event again, funds permitting. *Adrian Wakeford*



*Well wrapped up members of the Bird Watching Group*



No further comment needed

#### Editor's bit

My thanks to all those who sent in items — please keep them coming. My email address is [tonibr@btinternet.com](mailto: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*