



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Emsworth and District U3A**

Registered charity, No 1114777

## Newsletter Mid 2019



The millpond on a windless evening

### **From The Chairman**

A very recent trip around some of the gardens and houses of Yorkshire reminded of why we enjoy this activity. Even if you are not a gardener there is something splendid in the vast range of flowers, from their variety of colours, some multi-coloured, to their size and the way in which they fight for space and yet still manage to complement each other.

Trees offer a different story. The largest go back over many of our generations and have managed to survive storms that have demolished our homes, which are supposed to be built to last.

The houses are a history lesson in themselves. Most reflect the fortunes, and misfortunes, of those who have lived there and how they fell in and out of favour with the current monarch. Success of a family may be because of their ambitions, religion or even sex.

I thoroughly enjoyed this particular trip but must confess that my favourite was a morning on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway but please don't tell anyone!

Our next U3A trip is to Knole House and Gardens on 27<sup>th</sup> June. This should be especially memorable as the National Trust has just spent £1.5 million pounds on a major refurbishment lasting 18 months. Many who been before are revisiting just to see these updates. Loads to see from the 400 acres deer park to the house which is listed as among the five largest in UK and occupies around four acres. The house also claims to have 52 staircases and 365 rooms. For NT members this is a real bargain as you only pay for the coach journey. Just a few places left. Call Jenny Morris on 01243 930792.

Our next summer outing is to the Weald and Downland Living Museum in Singleton on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August. This open-air museum has over 50 historic buildings dating from 950AD to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Occupying over 40 acres it has gardens, farm animals, walks and a mill pond. This is an ideal way to see how our ancestors lived and makes one realise that there has been some progress! Travel is by your own transport and we will meet in the cafe for coffee and biscuits. This is followed by a tour based on the theme "Field to Plate". You are free to take a picnic or buy something in the cafe. Contact Madeleine on 01243 370132.

Arguably, the most important aspect of any trip or outing is the opportunity to meet up with fellow members of our U3A, renew friendships and just generally have a natter. Being sociable.

*Les*

## A New Group – the Second Discussion Group

The present Discussion group is full with a waiting list so Ken Harry has suggested that we get a second group going. It is proposed that this second group will meet in member's homes on the same day as the first group but in the afternoons on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The first meeting will be held 2.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June at 50 Beach Road, Emsworth. The subject for discussion will be included in a reminder emailed to group members a few days before the meeting.

For the first meeting the subject will be **'When is it acceptable for one country to interfere with or influence the affairs of another country?'**.

Give your opinion on a variety of instances including the Crusades, the Norman invasion of Britain, the work of the Missionaries, UK/Afghanistan, US/Iran and the Nuclear Bomb, and in the digital age, Russia's attempts to influence the US elections.

There is bound to be someone who holds a different view to yours.



To register to join

Discussion 2 or for more information please contact Alan Smith [robertalansmith01@gmail.com](mailto:robertalansmith01@gmail.com) or telephone 01243 372169.

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### EMSWORTH U3A RHYTHM & ROCK GROUP

We are an informal group of music lovers who meet in each others homes on the third Monday of each month (1000 -1200)

We listen to and discuss popular music from the 1950s to the present day. The group was established in 2015. New members are welcome.

For more information contact: David Harris

Email: [mydogisfinn@gmail.com](mailto:mydogisfinn@gmail.com) Tel (01243) 378215



## Abbaphonic at the Royal Albert Hall *by Mike Polgreen*

Members of Emsworth U3A enjoyed a Friendship Matinee, Abbaphonic, by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. The songs were familiar and there was dancing in the aisles, even one or two of our U3A were on their feet. Many people were waving their mobile phone torches (almost) in time with the music during several songs which made a nice spectacle. The performance was exceptional and the ticket price was very reasonable. It was a great opportunity to see the inside of the Albert Hall which is a marvellous building.



We had some time to spare afterwards so went to the Natural History Museum down the road to see an art installation of the moon. There was a seven metre diameter sphere hanging from the ceiling with an incredibly detailed projection of the moon's surface on it. It was worth the walk.

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## The Poetry Group

The poetry group continues to enjoy the monthly meetings. Recently, we read aloud the "Eve of St. Agnes," by John Keats. It is a particularly interesting poem, as it was begun while the poet was staying in Chichester for a few days, at a house in Eastgate Square, belonging to "old Mr Dilke." We know this from a letter dated 14th Feb - 3rd May 1819, which Keats wrote to his brother George. In the letter, he mentions that he is composing the poem. It is possible that the medieval atmosphere of Chichester cathedral helped to inspire him to produce a similar atmosphere in the poem.

We are now revisiting Shakespeare's sonnets, and his other poems/songs.

*Moya Wippell*

## Hooks and Needles

This new group started in April and after the first meeting has moved the day to the third Monday of the month as that suits everyone better, with plans to continue meeting throughout the summer. Most of the group have unearthed unfinished projects that for various reasons have been a challenge to complete, time being one of the main constraints in the past. We have managed to help each other overcome any obstacles and



make progress either by the sharing of knowledge, giving advice or demonstrating a particular skill. Projects that are being worked on include knitting, crochet, embroidery, tapestry, cross stitch and quilting.

We have also been shown 'Temari' - traditional Japanese balls which are decoratively finished with a covering of vibrant stitching, fascinating!



So far so good and the group does have a laugh; trying to put a tapestry frame together was a bit like putting up a deckchair - if you had seen the three of them trying! It was one way of breaking the ice and getting to know each other better, which we are looking forward to doing more of at our forthcoming meetings.

*Angela Sewell (on behalf of the group)*

## Royal Institution Science Lectures

*by Gill Polgreen*

In March my husband and I went up to London to an afternoon of science organised by National U3A.

The Royal Institution is easily reached from London Victoria; we walked past Buckingham Palace and through Green Park. It was not a day for lingering, not only because it was cold, but also our train had been delayed by an hour en route by a fallen tree and then signal failure so time was tight. If we had been in less of a hurry we could have spent some time taking in the surrounds of the palace and The Mall. Anyway, we arrived on time just but had little choice of seats as most of the audience were already seated.

It felt like a privilege to enter such a historical place of learning; the lectures were held in a lecture theatre which we realised from paintings on the walls of the lobby areas, had been the home to lectures for well over 100 years. It was lovely to see the same desk depicted in the paintings still being used today for the speaker to lay out their papers, or more likely their laptop. The lecture theatre has been modified to suit modern methods of delivery but is not as slick as many purpose built lecture theatres we have been in.

The afternoon consisted of three lectures with a tea break after the second. There were questions taken after each talk with well organised roving microphones – the young people running up and down the steps to deliver the mic were younger than most of the audience by a good 30 or 40 years.

Firstly we heard from Jo Ruxton, who had spent eight years making the documentary film, “A Plastic Ocean”. We saw some clips from the film and others that were not included and she emphasised the effects our plastic rubbish is having on birdlife and sea-life. She is now a keen campaigner for reductions in single-use plastics, although recognising their role, especially in medicine. She admitted to there being no easy solutions but stressed that the problem is urgent.



Our second lecture was by Professor Andrew Pontzen entitled “What made our universe” It was thought provoking, but ultimately the amount we don’t know about the universe is as unfathomable as thinking about the size of the universe. One question which drew a round of applause was asking advice for an audience member’s grandson who had set his sights on becoming an astronaut going to Mars. The advice was to learn Mandarin as it was the Professor’s opinion the Chinese were the most likely to be involved.

To round off the series we listened to Dr Jennifer Rogers talk to us about statistics and their use and misuse by the media. She demonstrated that cause cannot be inferred from correlation by showing us that eating cheese and death by entanglement in bedsheets are very highly correlated. Among others, she cast light on one recent press item you may have seen about eating bacon, ham and processed meat being a cancer risk. Apparently the statistics say 5 out of 400 will die of pancreatic cancer but of those eating bacon every day 6 out of 400 will die. However the press bigged up the story to the extent they were implying a bacon sandwich was a huge risk to our health.

All the talks were understandable whether or not you had a scientific background.

The RI is a charity dedicated to inspiring more people to think more deeply about the importance of science in our lives and engages widely with schools and other organisations, including the U3A. They also run a series of public lectures and a YouTube channel featuring talks from many eminent scientists.

So next time you are bored with the telly, why not find something from the RI on YouTube to watch, and if you are at a loose end for something to do in London, look at their website to see if they have a talk on. It will be a lot less expensive than a West End play!

There is another U3A Royal Institution event on 7<sup>th</sup> October and this will be posted on the national U3A website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) on the events page, nearer the time.

# 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!*

|             |           |                                |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2019</b> | July      | Theatre (Inner & Outer Circle) |
|             | August    | No meeting                     |
|             | September | Amble & Pub lunch              |
|             | October   | Book Groups 1 & 2              |
|             | November  | Gardens 1 & 2                  |
|             | December  | No meeting                     |

## U3A EMSWORTH CYCLING GROUP PROGRAM for 2019

Rides will be on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month starting from Emsworth Park (car park), Horndean Road, at 09.30 prompt and the Hayling & Southsea rides ONLY can be joined at Warblington Railway Gates (South side) at 09.40 for anyone who lives to the West of Emsworth Contact James Powell on 023 9245 2424

| 4th July     | 18th July       | 1st August       | 15th August        |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Hayling      | Fishbourne      | West Dean        | Stoke / Funtington |
| 10 Miles E/W | 12 out 9 return | 12 Miles E/W     | 10 Miles E/W       |
| Flat Ride    | Flat Ride       | Some Small Hills | Some Small Hills   |
| 5th Sept     | 19th Sept       | 3rd Oct          | 17th Oct           |
| Hayling      | Fishbourne      | West Dean        | Stoke / Funtington |
| 10 Miles E/W | 12 out 9 return | 12 Miles E/W     | 10 Miles E/W       |
| Flat Ride    | Flat Ride       | Some Small Hills | Some Small Hills   |
| 7th Nov      | 21st Nov        | 5th Dec          | 19th Dec           |
| Hayling      | Fishbourne      | West Dean        | Stoke / Funtington |
| 10 Miles E/W | 12 out 9 return | 12 Miles E/W     | 10 Miles E/W       |
| Flat Ride    | Flat Ride       | Some Small Hills | Some Small Hills   |



## Emsworth U3A Committee

|   |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>Les Pallett</b><br>dilespallett@tiscali.co.uk<br>01243 681910                                      | Chairman             | <b>Jennifer Morris</b><br>Trips, Outings and Social.<br>jdwanmorris444@gmail.com<br>01243 930792 |
| <b>Gill Polgreen</b><br>3 Esmond Close, Emsworth, PO10 7HX<br>gill.polgreen@gmail.com<br>01243 389983 | Membership Secretary | <b>Bridget Watts</b><br>Groups Co-ordinator<br>bridget.watts@btinternet.com<br>07970 521815      |
| <b>Kenneth Laing</b><br>klaing@ntlworld.com   | Treasurer            | <b>Michael Hulse</b><br>Speaker Organizer<br>michaeldavidhulse@hotmail.com                       |
| <b>David Bittles</b><br>davidbits@sky.com   | Secretary            | <b>Mike Polgreen</b><br>Webmaster & Technical Co-ordinator<br>mcpolgreen@gmail.com               |

## Future Talks

|                   |                      |   |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>July 19th.</b> | <b>Ian Bevan</b>     | <b>Inns of Court</b>                        |
| <b>Sep 20th</b>   | <b>Chris Dewey</b>   | <b>The History of Arundel</b>               |
| <b>Oct 18th</b>   | <b>Sue Hennessy</b>  | <b>The History of Women in the R.N.L.I.</b> |
| <b>Nov 15th</b>   | <b>Dr Bob France</b> | <b>What the Butler Saw</b>                  |

### CONDOLENCE CARDS

The Committee would like to send a card to the family when a member of our U3A dies. Please, let the membership secretary or any Committee member know.

Remember to look at our website – lots of useful information on there.  
[www.emsworthu3a.org.uk](http://www.emsworthu3a.org.uk)

## Emsworth and District U3A outings 2019

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Knole House near Sevenoaks

Knole is a National Trust property, set in a medieval deer park, that has recently been the subject of a major conservation project. It was originally built as an archbishop's palace, has been lived in by royalty and has been occupied by the Sackville family for many years. Apart from visiting the grand courtyards, the orangery and the parkland there is access to the showrooms, the subject of the conservation project. In these can be seen 17<sup>th</sup> century tapestries and furniture as well as art by Reynolds, Gainsborough and van Dyck.

There is a café on site where refreshments and lunch can be purchased. **These are not included in the trip price.**

[This will be a full day trip, by coach, with pick up points at Warblington Road \(opposite the Kings Arms\) and Beach Road.](#)

**The price for this trip will be:**

**£19.00 for National Trust members**

**£32.00 for Non-NT members**

Further information can be obtained from Jenny Morris [jdwanmorris444@gmail.com](mailto:jdwanmorris444@gmail.com) or Doug Anderson

[thedougal7@gmail.com](mailto:thedougal7@gmail.com)

Bookings can be made at the U3A general meetings from 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Full payment will be required at the time of booking.

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#### SMARTPHONE USERS

The phone my sister has (she's six)



The phone I had when I was six



AMM

## **Summer Outing to the Weald and Downland Living Museum, Town Lane, Singleton P018 OEU**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August starting at 10.30am.

Under 65s £17.30 Over 65s £15.60

We meet in the café at the Museum for coffee and biscuits followed by a guided tour of the site on the theme of "Field to Plate". After that we are free to stay as long as we want to, We can buy lunch in the café or take a picnic, there are many picnic tables round the site.

Contact Madeleine on 01243 370132.

[madeleinecox@aol.com](mailto:madeleinecox@aol.com)



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Irish Craic and Humour

**What did our parents do when they  
were bored with no Internet?**

Irish Craic and Humour

**I asked my 18 brothers and sisters,  
and they didn't know either.**

[irishcraicandhumour.com](http://irishcraicandhumour.com)

### Creative Writing

We have a vacancy caused by the escape of one of our writers. If you match one of the following descriptions and would like to join our small group, please let the groups Coordinator or Group Leader Catherine Madinaveitia know :

Writing your own life story

Writing your Family History

Finishing that novel

Starting that novel, short story or essay.



### ROSES

What a wonderful year for roses,  
I'm just longing to show you ours;  
They're luscious, enormous in dollymix hues  
Hanging over the fence and the arch in profuse  
(Sorry)  
As perfect as Chelsea flowers.  
Unfortunately I'm still in a wheelchair (don't ask!)  
But my husband has built a fine ramp  
To get up the steep steps to the oasis  
Where the roses are flaunting their faces  
Peacocking their perfume: awaiting the bridegroom.  
Our garden a ballroom.  
So this summer's heatwave will find me,  
As I hope it will you, if all's well,  
Wearing my swimsuit, sitting out in great style,  
While the shadows tiptoe across the sundial.  
Have a drink with a friend, get into the trend  
Let's pretend summer never will end.

*Catherine*

## THE VERY USEFUL GROUP!!

The 'Very Useful Group' was created to provide practical support to the committee, one of their objectives being to become a more welcoming, friendly U3A. We know how difficult it can be if you are new to the area and have not yet established friendships and how daunting it can be to attend a large group meeting. Since the beginning of 2018 when it was formed we have been holding coffee mornings in our own homes so that new members can meet existing members in a smaller situation and find out more about our Interest Groups and other events organised by Emsworth U3A. So far 28 coffee mornings have taken place, sizes ranging from 4- 12 people and over 170 members having attended at least one. We have had very positive feedback from these gatherings which are always very sociable occasions. Several people have said that it has really helped to make them feel as though they are now part of our U3A. We have also encouraged other members to host coffee mornings with our support and these too have had a great response both from the host who enjoyed entertaining and the guests who were very appreciative of the invite. The group usually consists of one host and one or two supporters, recent new members and established members (including a committee member). The number determined by the host depending on their space available.

If you would like to get involved or host, help support or receive an invite to a coffee morning please speak to Anne Fox-Robinson, Bridget Watts or Maureen Nicholas at the monthly meeting (based at the far table near the coffee hatch) or email [bridget.watts@btinternet.com](mailto:bridget.watts@btinternet.com) or [maureennicholas7@gmail.com](mailto:maureennicholas7@gmail.com) and we will be delighted to speak to you to discuss your interest and possible dates of coffee morning dates being organised.

Cheers!



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### **Feedback received:**

*I enjoyed meeting you, the discussion, the company, and of course the coffee and biscuits. As a new member of U3A it Made me very glad that I had joined the organisation. I wish I had joined years ago. It was a lovely idea.*

*Thank you so much for the lovely coffee morning. It was great to meet you and so many other nice people.*

*Thank you for the invite, we enjoyed the morning and met lots of interesting people.*

*Thank you so much for a lovely coffee morning. What I liked most was meeting new members.*

*Thank you very much for the very enjoyable coffee morning. I do think it is a splendid way for U3A members to meet each other socially, in small groups, and for long enough to have a worthwhile chat, which isn't always possible at the general meetings.*

*Just to say how much we enjoyed the U3A coffee morning and to thank you for your warm welcome and delicious cake. It was such a happy occasion and certainly helps to make links with other members.*

*Many thanks for a very enjoyable morning . It was lovely to meet so many nice people. I hope to see you both at future U3A meetings. Thank you for your hospitality.*



## Leonardslee Gardens

A visit was made to Leonardslee gardens at Lower Beeding, Horsham on Thursday 25th April.

A party of 33 made a trip to the gardens by coach which left Emsworth at 08.45 and arrived at 10.00am. This gave a period of 3 hours to 1.00pm, when we left and proceeded to the Hare and Hounds pub at Cowfold for lunch.



The gardens are centered on a natural valley. In 1803, 1000 acres of land in the parish of Lower Beeding were sold by the Aldridge family to Charles Beauclerk who built South Lodge.

In 1852 the estate was sold including the lodge, with 30 acres of parkland surrounding it. The gardens were already described as "beautiful", containing magnolias, azaleas, rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs.

The estate was bought by W. Egerton Hubbard who demolished the lodge and replaced it in 1855 with an Italianate mansion. The name Leonardslee was first used at this time.

In 1878, Sir Edmund Loder married Marion Hubbard of Leonardslee and bought the estate from his in-laws in 1888. He expanded and improved

the estate with extensive planting and introduced a wide variety of animals of foreign origin, including the wallabies. Sir Edmund died in 1920 and his grandson took over the estate, sold 900 acres but kept 240 acres for the gardens. The





Loder family held the estate until 2011 when it was sold and closed to the public, after many years of being open.

In 2017 it was bought by Penny Streeter who owns the Benguela Collection, a South African based wine estate and hospitality group. The gardens were extensively cleared and renovated and reopened to the public.

On arrival, despite warnings of rain, it remained dry. We were impressed by the variety of the display of rhododendrons,

azaleas, camellias, magnolias and others. The bluebells were also in full bloom. Extensive vines have been planted but are still in the early stages. The wallabies and the doll's house were among other attractions and there are a series of lakes and waterfalls.

The doll's house in the courtyard was created in 1998 and expanded gradually to become an Edwardian estate, with a complete market town all to 1/12 scale. Everyone was impressed by the sheer detail in this and it was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the visit.

There was also a cafe and shop for those who wished to relax or purchase a variety of plants, wine and many other items.

We left at 1.00pm and proceeded to the Hare and Hounds pub close by , which proved to be an excellent choice with food and service both complimented on by a number of our group. We spent about 2 hours at the pub, leaving around 3.00 pm and arriving back in Emsworth at around 4.15 pm. I think most agreed it was a worthwhile visit.

*Doug Anderson*



## **SMART PHONE USERS**

**Hard to believe I once had  
a phone attached to a wall.**



**When it rang, I'd pick it up  
without knowing who was  
calling. Amazing I'm still alive**

### **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*