



Newsletter Autumn 2017

We are very pleased to report that we had a most successful Open Morning on Saturday 9th September. It was held at International House in the Square to spread the word about our Emsworth U3A—what it is, what it does, and what people can get from it and contribute to it. As a result we now have 14 new members and half as many again took away application forms. In fact, we ran out of application forms, and in addition, two people turned up after the doors were closed and wanted to sign up. They took away a newsletter and a programme of events and came to our next general meeting. Our thanks must go to the committee and the group leaders and their

representatives for all the hard work that they put in in preparation for and on the day. Thanks also to those who came in to say hello.

Many of the new members were asked how they heard about our U3A. It was a mixture of seeing the poster prepared by Gail and knowing someone already in our U3A. The second reason tells me that they know we are a friendly bunch and wish to join us. This is the aspect that makes our U3A special - we make everyone welcome.

Les Pallet



From The Chairman

"Times they are a 'changin'". Life is full of changes, some of which we can influence and some are less welcome. The committee is continually seeking ideas that would benefit and enhance your U3A.

One of those changes concerned our groups, some of which are full and have a waiting list. One idea was to encourage members of groups to advise the group leader when they were unable to attend the next meeting. This provided the opportunity to invite those on the waiting list to try the group. Along these lines, an opportunity arose to work with Havant U3A. They are of a similar size to ourselves and have several groups that are not replicated by ours. By working together the two group co-ordinators have more chance of finding sufficient numbers to start a new group where none currently exists or opening a second group. Already several members from Havant Family History have joined with ours to share ideas.

Until recently, our trips have always been very popular and all places on the coaches been filled. While the traditional house and garden trip still has a loyal following there is now an appetite for a different type of visit. This coincided with the start of the Questor group which began as a tool to provide new comers with a group when their first choices were unavailable. The intention was for them to arrange, as a group, trips to places that they had not considered before. First choices were the Tim Peake exhibition and Farnborough airfield (reports inside). Questor will continue with the smaller locations and assume responsibility for the organisation of house and garden trips. (See inside for more details about Questor and a report on its first trip)

Our constitution dates back to 2006 and the committee is keen to update it. The Third Age Trust (TAT) was also contacted and they advised that while no amendment was imminent discussions were in hand with the Charity Commission (CC) regarding the social aspects of our organisation. We are keen to ensure that time on the committee is limited to three years and this policy is being adopted by the committee. This does not contradict our current Constitution, only clarify it. Once talks have been completed by TAT we will present the latest version to you. We will keep you appraised on progress.

Remember that we are always open to suggestions so please talk with any member of the committee.

Les Pallett

The Amble and Pub Lunch

The weather forecast for Monday 11th September was poor, and over Sunday night the wind blew with torrents of rain, so I was sure



nobody would come for the Amble, worried about the gusting winds, driving rain and muddy tracks.

Despite this 10

Emsworth U3A stalwart pub ambler arrived at the car park and set off for West Itchenor.

All worries were unfounded and we walked along dry paths, past beautiful houses with their own jetties, tennis courts exceptional views and overlooking yachts in the moorings. The fields looked ready for winter after the Harvest. We stopped for coffee at St Nicholas Church which was a hive of activity, receiving gifts to be flown to areas affected by hurricane Irma. The final

coastal stretch was wind Force 6 with white horses out at sea. Lunch at the Ship Inn was excellent, with good service. From the thanks Terri and I received it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. I am new to the area and this walk was made possible by Terri giving me knowledge, encouragement and support, so many thanks.

Anne Fox-Robinson



Questor Group

The newly formed Questor group had its first visit to the Novium Museum on Tuesday 18th July 2017. We were a final group of eight including some longstanding members of U3A as it was decided to open the invitation to all members of our U3A.

The accompanying photographs show the group with Tim Peake and some of the space exhibits in the background, and an exhibit which allows visitors to try their hand at assembling Lego using space suit gloves. All in all, the exhibition was quite stunning and awesome. Tim's astronaut training programme was very demanding and comprehensive, including having to learn Russian, which he found the hardest, apparently. Several research projects were carried out while in space looking at the effects of weightlessness on the body, the viability of seeds (they choose rocket seeds!). It would be good exhibition for children as there were hands-on exhibits, pull-out drawers with activities and dressing up space suits.

After about an hour we walked over to Cloisters Restaurant in the cathedral precincts for lunch and a chat.

Questor was formed when it was realised that new members often were unable to join a group as their choices were full. This often





Photos Mike Wood

resulted in them ending their membership. As a first step to alleviate this it was decided to form Questor, its aim was to provide trips to places where they would not normally think of going and all new members would have automatic membership of the group.

The Tim Peake Exhibition was the first of these trips. Following this, requests were received from many members, both new and long standing, to be involved in the trips resulting in access being opened to all.

The next trip, planned for late October, is to Farnborough Corporate Airfield which will include a tour of the control tower plus a viewing of many the expensive aircraft operated by large corporations and affluent private owners. Transport will be a minibus and this trip is fully subscribed.

Questor is now seeking destinations for next year and this will also include the ever-popular house and garden trips and suggestions are welcomed from all. Likewise, if a group wishes to plan a trip relating to their special interest then Questor is willing to assist in any aspect. Re-visits to any location will also be considered where interest is high enough.

Jacky Sheppard



Swansong

Gone is the image of pride and renown,
that elegant emblem of Emsworth town!
Where have they flown, out and beyond,
the swans that once gathered on the mill pond?

A feuding exodus left the pond bare
and a sense desertion hangs in the air.
The dominant pair reclaimed their domain
to raise a new dynasty once again.

The water lies brackish, sluggish and slow.
Mallards and moorhens come and go.
Seabirds skim on its placid brink,
but the dazzling swans are the missing link!

***No swans' wakes to ruffle and flow.
No proud parents their cygnets in tow.
No slender white necks of eglantine curve.
No ballet of swans to admire and observe.***

Dirty and drab the mud-steeped bank.
The winter weather dull and dank.
Seagulls scream in the brooding skies,
and the bridge has become a Bridge of Sighs.

-O-O-O-O-O-

Eve Wood December 2016.



A poem for autumn

I'm researching my Family tree;
It's a nice little hobby for me;
I can check who was where
from my comfy armchair
and the laptop that sits on my knee.

There's my great-uncle Alf, lost at sea,
But my mother once whispered to me
he was killed in a fight
one dark Singapore night
When the sailors were out on a spree.

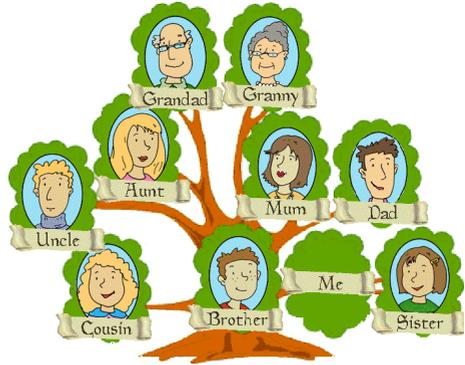
And my grandma, when she was a bride,
it wasn't till after she died
That I found out my dad
Arrived early and had
Appeared at four months, quel surprise!

I have one aunt who married a lot
Each husband with different weak spot:
The first was a gambler, the second a drunk;
the third loved his mother, the fourth had no spunk.
Glory Be! For benign Uncle Walt.

Uncle William was hit on the head,
and punched as some getaways fled;
And Archie a crofter who died far too young,
Up in the North from disease of the lung.
It proves we can't tell what's ahead.

Belle and Tilly were lost without trace
Once they stepped on the ship to migrate
And Great-Uncle George disappeared in the West
Though his family searched for years without rest
There was never a word from the States.

The scope of my puzzles is complex and vast
I find it's addictive just tracking the past,
If you don't believe me
just check your own Tree,
More intriguing than any broadcast.



Catherine

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!

2017	
October	Model Railway / Poetry 2
November	Craft / Structure in Music
December	<i>No meeting</i>
2018	
January	Scrabble / Playreading for Fun
February	Bird Watching / Biblical Hebrew
March	Amble & Pub lunch
April	Theatre / Poetry 1
May	Questor
June	Wine Appreciation

Book Group 2

Members of Book Group 2 are keen readers from a wide spread of ages (Well! I suppose we are all retired!) and we have different tastes in reading material.

This month's choice proved to be no exception - "Juliet, Naked " by Nick Hornby which was about a reclusive American rock star and his "geeky" obsessive fan. Half the group enjoyed the humour and characterisations whilst the rest disliked the characters so much that they struggled to finish the book. However we all came together with John Grisham's "The Broker " as we raced from assassination attempts and the workings of the ICA and the FBI to the delights of Italy's Bologna. We are to be more serious this month as we tackle Middlemarch by George Eliot .

Perhaps the most enjoyable recent event was our visit to the Deck cafe where we went for lunch to celebrate John's 90th Birthday.

We all had a very happy time and look forward to many more such occasions as we move up the line!

Una Raymond .



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IT PAYS TO TAKE TIME

TAKE FIVE TO STOP

AND THINK

One of our members recently had a window in her car smashed and handbag stolen. It wasn't really preventable in the circumstances, but is a reminder to Stop and Think and not get into situations where criminals can take advantage of us.

Future Talks

17th November	Philip Robinson	The Duchess of Richmond's Ball. The night before Waterloo
December		Christmas lunch
19th January 2018	Alan Saunders	Yeoman of the Guard at Buckingham Palace
16th February 2018		AGM
16th March 2018	Adrian Fox	The road to Timbuctoo
20th April 2018	Dudley Hooley	Tangmere and the S.O.E

2018 Membership subscriptions

We are now collecting the 2018 membership subscriptions which are due on 1 January 2018.

The subscription rate for some years now has been £14 single and £26 for joint members. However as our financial position is very strong at the moment the Committee has agreed, and will seek confirmation from the Membership at the February AGM, that the 2018 subscription shall be reduced to £12.50 single and £23 for joint members. At this stage it is expected that from 2019 subscription rates will revert to at least historical levels.

Gill Polgreen will be helping me this year and we will have a table at the October, November and January monthly meetings where we will be taking subscriptions. However there is likely to be a queue, so if it may be easier for you to post me your cheque, made out to Emsworth & District U3A. My address is 8 Danbury Court, Emsworth, PO10 7RD.

Alternatively you can give it to any Committee Member who will pass it on to me.

Please get in touch if there are any concerns you have regarding your membership. My email is membership.emsworth.u3a@gmail.com and my phone number is 01243 370396.

If you are not renewing then please let me know. If you have a moment I would be interested in why you are leaving - not to discuss it with you or anyone else, but so I can give a broad indication to the Committee as to the reasons some members have not renewed.

Lincoln Allen

Membership Secretary, Emsworth & District U3A

Social Events

The Solar Boat Cruise and Lunch

God granted us a beautiful August day for our Summer Social, clear skies and a gentle breeze. Fifty of us boarded the Solar Heritage, the solar powered boat owned by Chichester Harbour Conservancy Trust, for a trip around the harbour. Our crew were Mick and Mike and they described many of the features of the harbour, most notable perhaps being the artificial osprey nest on Hayling Island opposite Langstone. It is hoped that a visiting pair of ospreys will be so impressed by the hospitality that they will stay and breed there.



Our lunch was at the Crown Hotel which was nice but seemed to take forever to arrive at the tables. Never mind, we enjoyed each other's company.

Madeleine

- — o o O O o o — -

The next Social Event is the
Christmas lunch at the Langstone Hotel
on Thursday 7th December, 12 for 12.30.

The cost is £25.

Please give or send a cheque to Madeleine if you
would like to go.



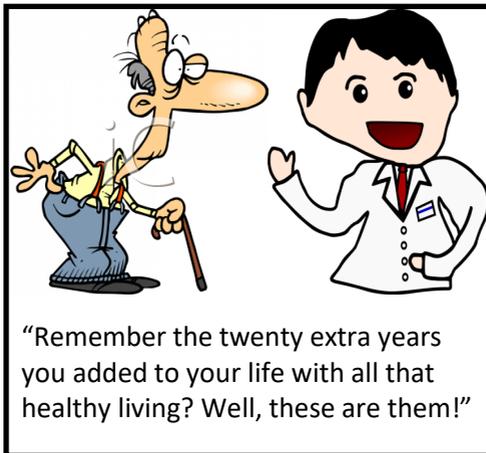
~ A Useful Websites ~

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/> Go to this site and enter a Post Code, Place Name or Other and click GO. Bingo! Try it with “Emsworth” or someone’s Post Code and see what map it comes up with. **Zoom-in** to street map level: **Zoom-out** through area and road maps. When zoomed out, look for red triangles (*If you don’t see these look below map and [Click here to toggle map ad icons](#) to bring them up.*) Click on a triangle for traffic congestion and hold-up information at that spot. Magic! *Mike Wood*

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.
U3asites.org.uk/Emsworth



“Remember the twenty extra years you added to your life with all that healthy living? Well, these are them!”

Editor’s bit

My thanks to all those who sent in items — please keep them coming. My email address is tonibr@onetel.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*