



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Emsworth and District U3A

Registered charity, No 1114777

Newsletter Late 2019



*A view across part of The Weald and Downland museum,
location of this year's Summer Outing.*

Ramblings from the Chair

When I was thinking about this article I was reminded of how many of our members contribute to making it such an enjoyable, interesting and satisfying organisation to be part of.

Joining a group we are invited in to someone's house who, until a short time ago, was a stranger. Our only previous common ground was an interest in music, a language or a particular skill such as craft or modelling. Once in you are offered coffee and biscuits or cakes, all from a person you still don't really know. But how quickly you all become friends and feel welcome. And make plans to meet up for a coffee or something stronger. The best part is that it is not only the group leader but other group members who are happy to share the load, acting as host for the group and maybe even taking a lead in some aspect of your special interest group.

Our very useful group is also a vital part of making new members feel welcome. At one of our coffee mornings they get to meet other new members who also may be feeling a little unsure. By including longer serving members in the party our new recruits are able find out what it really means to be part of Emsworth and District U3A.

While all of our committee have important roles in the various tasks so necessary in keeping our U3A operating within the ethos of the U3A they also have another role which is just as important. They need to ensure that all members have a feeling of belonging.

Our AGM is coming up shortly and with some committee members stepping down, having completed their three years, we are looking for people join the team. And it is a team with each supporting the others with a common goal – to ensure our U3A remains a great organisation to belong to. Why not talk with one of the committee about the vacancies.

Have a great Christmas.

Les

As a very new member of the U3A, I wondered if anyone was interested in starting a new creative writing group since the existing one is full ? Please contact me and we can discuss a way forward.

Barbara Dordi barbaradordi12@gmail.com

The Joining Experience

Joining the District U3A was a whirlwind experience from the outset. After just "turning up" one Friday at 9.30, I was met with an overwhelmingly packed hall. After talking to Gill and Les I fled in panic to read and absorb all given information. I joined the group and turned up the following month at 9am to "get a seat!" I found myself to be the only member there - much to the amusement of Les. I obviously hadn't read the given information thoroughly enough. I did meet a chap called Trevor and found we had a common "respect" for wine. I was invited by a group leader, Mike, to the wine group BBQ, firstly being relieved of my joining fee before given an empty glass! Met a number of members along with one or two familiar local faces. Names exchanged and forgotten. Jolly fun BBQ - thank you Gillian, David and Mike.

Very quickly a further invitation came along, courtesy of Maureen, to a coffee morning in Southbourne. A most enjoyable morning, meeting even more members, whose names were exchanged forgotten. Thank heavens for those wonderful stick-on labels!! Many, many thanks to Maureen for a delightful time.

Then it was on to the 19th. Sitting comfortably alongside familiar faces and a friendly atmosphere enjoying our "tour" around Inns of Court. Excellent talk and quite a revelation. I am now looking forward to the future within the Group and my thanks to all the friendly members I have met so far.

Joan Chester

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.



Jokes about white sugar are rare. Jokes about brown sugar, Demerarer

Weald and Downland Trip

Our Summer Outing this year arranged by Madeleine Cox, was a very successful visit to the Weald and Downland Living Museum on August 16th.

Although we had visited this museum before, having a tour guide made a huge difference. We all met in the cafe where we were treated to excellent coffee and homemade biscuits. We were then introduced to Jez, our tour



Listening to our guide

guide. He is an early music researcher and gave us examples of how lyrics in the old songs reflected social issues of the day. If you visit the museum you may see him around playing a hurdy-gurdy or bagpipes, so do stop and ask

him questions – you will be enthralled. He was very well-informed and enthusiastic about the buildings and their history and we all found it fascinating. He also spoke knowledgeably about the differences between ale houses, inns and pubs and about the trading laws. For example it was very important for a retailer to be honest



Guided tour

I'm at that age where my mind thinks I'm 29, my humour suggests I'm 12 while my body keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

and offer quality goods as there were strict price control laws. So in The Shambles (the name given to a row of butchers) how do you choose which

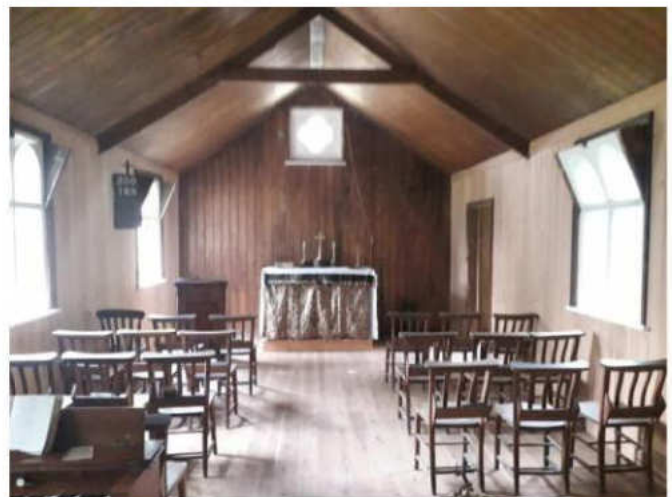


Oxen and cart

one to give your custom to if they all charge the same for a pair of hens feet? It has got to be on quality and the butcher's reputation.

The guided tour was only part of our day and of necessity could not include all the buildings in the time we had. We were free to wander afterwards. Some of us

loved looking at the watermill with its working wheel and how beautifully smoothly the gears ran while they milled flour which they sold or was then baked into loaves by the bakery just opposite. Seeing the working oxen and heavy horses, which they use to do the field work in traditional ways, was also a treat. For some the highlight was sampling the ale that had been brewed by Jez using painstaking, traditional methods. To finish our day we thought we'd take a look at the place where The Repair Shop is filmed. But sadly not, filming was going on but the public were very clearly not welcome. But no matter, it was a most enjoyable day out.



Reconstructed church

Many thanks to Madeleine for arranging the visit for us.

Madeleine Cox and Maureen Nicholas. Photos by Ken Laing

Wir treffen uns den erste und dritte Montag der Monat um 10.45. Obwohl wir nicht fehlerfreies Deutsch sprechen, plaudern wir miteinander, videos anschauen und einige Übungen machen, und, hoffentlich, werden wir unsere Deutschkenntnis verbessern. Einige der Gruppe studierten einmal Deutsch O Level in der Schule oder in Deutschland arbeiteten. Wenn Sie dieser Absatz verstehen sollten Sie in der Gruppe zu Hause sich finden.



Contact Marion Emberson, marion-emberson@tiscali.co.uk

We meet the first and third Monday of the month at 10.45am. Although we do not speak faultless German, we chat with each other, watch videos and do some exercises, and, hopefully, we will improve our knowledge of German. Some of the group studied German 'O' level at school or in Germany. If you understand this paragraph you should find yourself at home in the group.



I found this quite amusing—how about you?

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	January	Scrabble 2
	February	Science, Engineering & Technology
	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

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

Future Talks

Fri Jan 17th 2020	Philip Macdougall: Portsmouth Dockyard Once the largest dockyard in the world, this talk traces the many ways in which Portsmouth Dockyard has changed and developed over time.
Fri Feb 21st 2020	No Talk : AGM
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.
Sat May 16th 2020	Malcolm Wells MBE: So Far So Good Covering topics of army life (the Gulf War), behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace investitures and how to train a guide dog to use a washing machine.

The Amble And Pub Lunch Group continues to thrive

In July we had a gloriously sunny day for our walk for 11 amblers from The George at Finchdean. We covered 4 miles at a leisurely pace over the fields, along farm tracks and parts of the Staunton way and Sussex Border path, led by Gill Polgreen. The only criticism we have of The George is that they always put us in the conservatory which lacks atmosphere and is either too hot in summer or too cold in winter. In future it might be better to opt for smaller tables in the bar.

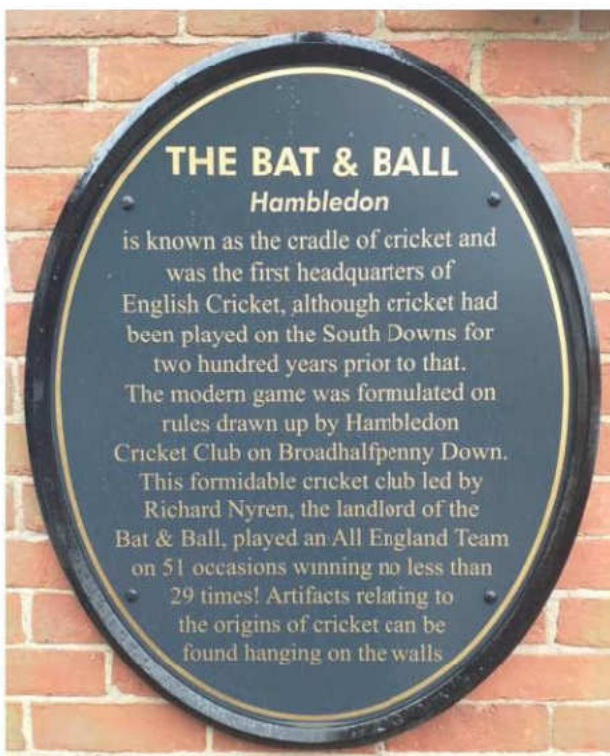


The August walk was led by Les Pallett, starting from the Hare and Hounds at Stoughton. Although it was slightly damp underfoot, the weather was perfect for walking – not too warm or cold, and not too sunny! Having placed our lunch orders, we left the pub and climbed, sometimes gently and sometimes a bit more steeply, to the The Devil's Humps above Kingley Vale. En route we had several stops to enjoy the views and discuss various plants and butterflies, and whether or not the dots in the distant field were deer or



holes in the crops. The views across the coastal plain from the top were good, though curtailed in the distance by the rain falling over The Solent – we stayed dry! We continued along the top of the Vale, then turned left onto The Monarch's Way and descended back to Stoughton, covering just 4 miles. The lunches were delivered to the table shortly after arrival, and all were good in both quality and quantity – home-cooked honey roast ham with eggs and chips was a popular choice.

In September Ann and Terry led us through the countryside around Hambledon. The weather forecast was dreadful, threatening buckets of rain, but 16 hardy souls turned up and as a reward, the weather was not too bad at all. OK, the ground was a bit muddy in places, but the walk along paths, up hills, through woods and paved paths leading to a coffee stop at the church were all good. Towards the latter part of the walk five of the more able and adventurous climbed a 1 in 4 grassy hill to extend their walk by half a mile or so. The rest of us headed back to the cars and onwards to the Bat and Ball for lunch. This pub is quite historic, making the most of its location as the birthplace of organised cricket in the UK and worth a visit just to browse the memorabilia while having a drink.



Toni

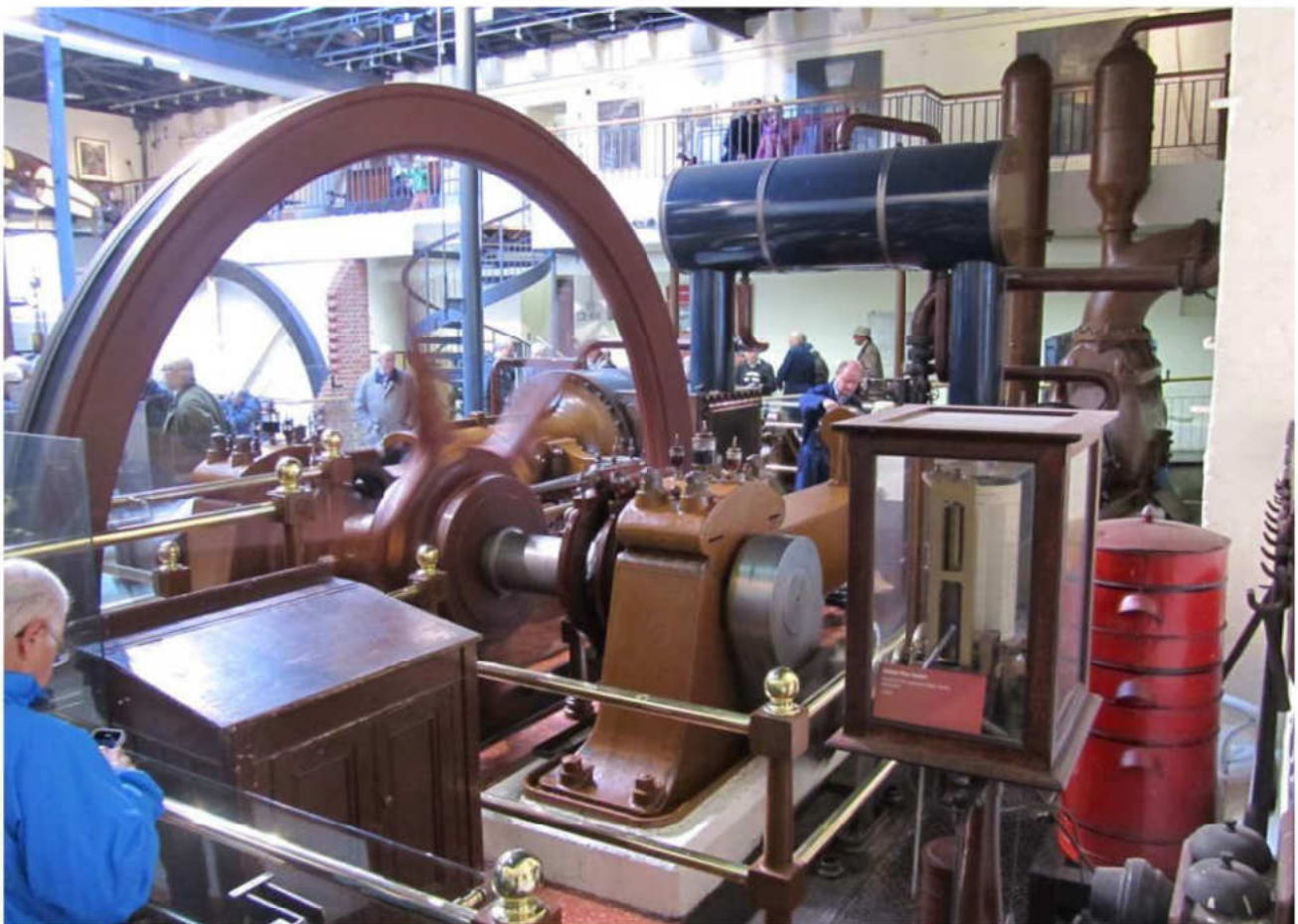


Science Engineering and Technology Group

This group was recently reformatted to enable us to eliminate our waiting list, to expand and to attract new members. We now meet once a month in the Community Centre and can accommodate many more members. We are expanding, but would like to expand even more. All new members welcome.

Each month one of our number makes a presentation on a subject of interest. Sometimes we pick a discussion subject and everyone is encouraged to come prepared with some information and views on that subject. Here is what our programme for 2019 has been:

- ⇒ The Babbage Machine
- ⇒ Discussion on "Driverless Cars"
- ⇒ Various NASA movies
- ⇒ Machine Vision
- ⇒ Imaging Radars
- ⇒ Discussion on "What comes after the combustion engine"
- ⇒ Zero-carbon Britain
- ⇒ The Science & Engineering of Honey bees
- ⇒ Evolution & Natural Selection.





Occasionally we go on outings. For example, we have been to the Mini factory in Oxford, the Oceanographic Institute, the Chichester planetarium, HMS Collingwood in Portsmouth.

The programme for 2020 is being prepared.

Although all members are invited to prepare a talk, it is not compulsory.

Talks can be as long (well, not longer than 1 ½ hours!) or as short (well, not shorter than 15 minutes) as the speaker desires. Not everyone in the group is a rocket scientist, but we all share a common interest in technical ideas. Liberal use of UTube and other material available on the Web is often used in presentations.

Anyone interested in learning more, or coming for a taster session, please contact Gail Wynne-Jones on gailwj@gmail.com

Gail Wynne-Jones

Don't forget to run your car's AirCon once a week set to 'Lo' or a low temp. This will circulate the lubricant and preserve the gas seals. If these start to leak, a re-gas is costly and renewing the seals even more expensive. *Mike Wood*

Wine Appreciation Group visit to Nutbourne Vineyard (near Pulborough, West Sussex)

On a sunny 8th of October, we left Emsworth by Minibus at 10am, arriving at Nutbourne, a 26 acre vineyard, an hour later. Bridget Gladwyn, the owner, welcomed us with coffee and home-made cakes, which we enjoyed, sitting in a purpose-built wooden building decorated with vintage wine-making implements and Bridget's colourful paintings. Bridget is a woman of many talents: a former London chef, now vineyard manager, artist, and mother of three boys (now men) who are all involved in the running of the vineyard.

After refreshments, Bridget outlined the history of the vineyard which was first planted in 1980, and bought and expanded by the Gladwyns in 1991. The family 'grow, tend, harvest, bottle and sell our Nutbourne wines — living the dream', is how she described it.

We were then given generous tastings of a selection of their white wines, each wine getting very mixed reactions from the group. It was amusing watching people's facial expressions as they tasted — ranging from grimaces to beaming smiles and every expression in-between. But then, 'one man's meat.....' It certainly got the conversation flowing!

Having just returned from living in the south of France, Russi and I found the wine to be a little too acidic for our taste after 12 years of drinking French whites, Viogniers in particular, but I have to say, we were the exceptions! Viognier grapes have a low acidity and require a great deal of sunshine to ripen so I can see why

they can't be grown in the UK. This is obviously why English vineyards produce mainly white and sparkling wines — the climate dictates it. But who knows, perhaps with global warming.....?

After the tastings, the now 'jolly' group were taken on a tour of the beautifully tended vineyard by a very knowledgeable young student who had worked there for 2 years learning all aspects of the trade to complete her PhD in viticulture. She introduced us to the 7 different types of grape: the Riesling grapes — Bacchus,



Huxelrebe, Reichsteiner, Schönburger; and for their sparkling wines, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc.



You couldn't ask for a more beautiful setting, here on the south-facing slopes of the Downs, which just so happen, we were told, to have the same green sand soil as the Champagne region in France. So it wasn't surprising to learn that the 'terroir' at Nutbourne with its warm microclimate, is ideal for growing vines mainly for white wine production, sparkling wine in particular. She also made a point of telling us that as well as cultivating vines, the Gladwyns have set aside areas of their land for conservation of the natural Downland habitat — flowers, insects and wildlife.

She then led us indoors to where we were treated to a tour, and detailed explanation of, the technical aspects of wine production, 'from grape to wine'. From stainless steel vats, we were given glasses of the fruity, very sweet juice of grapes picked only the day before our visit, before introducing us to the various stages involved in turning this juice into wine. We even saw wine already made being bottled, sealed and labelled — every label featuring Bridget Gladwyn's artwork.

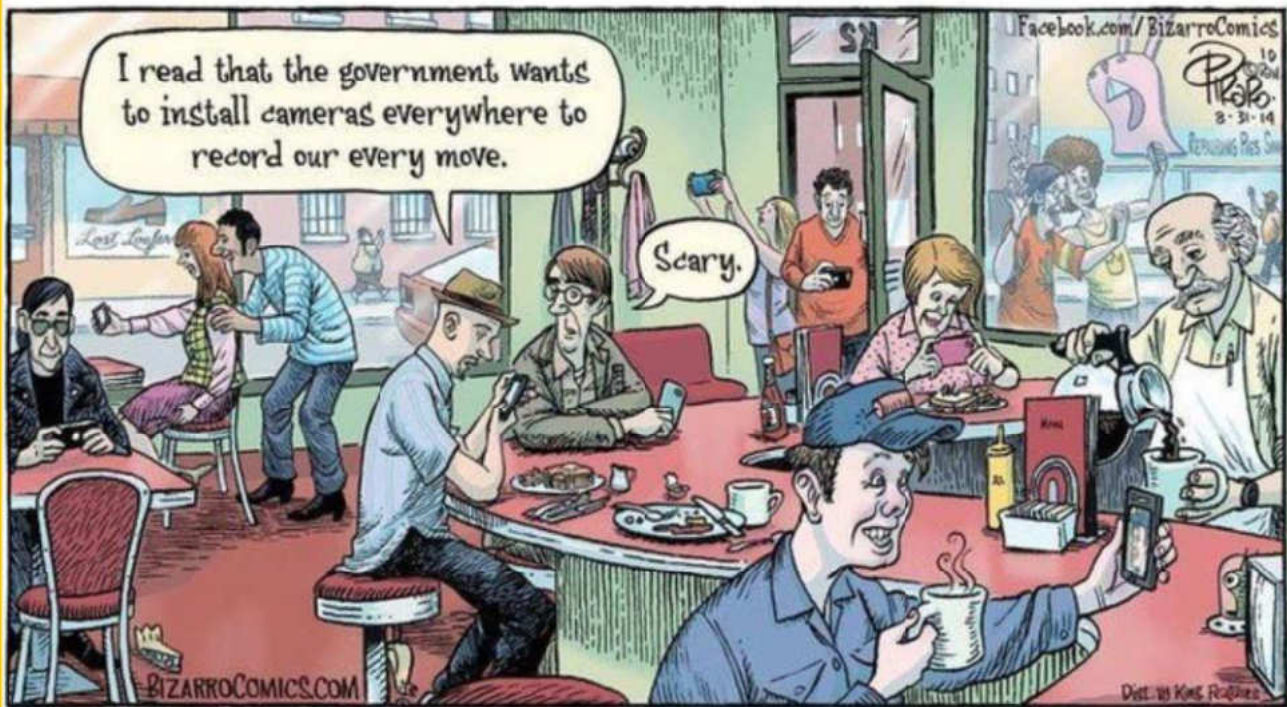
The pièce de résistance for me was the sympathetically renovated ancient windmill where the range of their wines is displayed, the cheapest wine costing about £11 per bottle. It certainly didn't deter people from buying. After all, this is wine produced in England, and as such, it is somewhat special. All in all, the setup of the vineyard was wonderfully presented and extremely impressive.

After saying our goodbyes we were whisked off to a local pub, The Rising Sun, for a delicious lunch; a fitting end to what had been a thoroughly enjoyable day. The minibus got this very happy group of 16 back home just after 4.30pm, very pleased they didn't have to drive! I'm sure everyone would wish to join me in thanking our leaders Mike Miles and Steve Gorban for organising such a wonderfully successful day out.

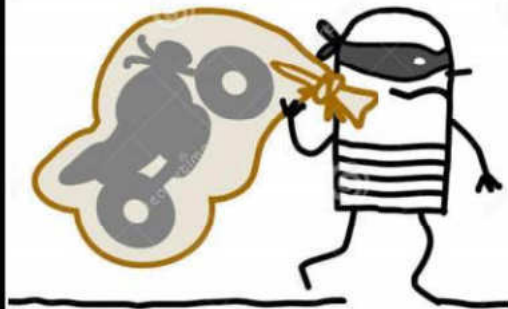
Barbara Dordi



SMART PHONE USERS



Watch Out! Watch out! There's a thief about!



Stay on the lookout and be careful with your property. An acquaintance recently had a load of hobby equipment stolen from his shed after being observed unloading attractive items from his car. A member of the U3A also had an electric bike stolen, even though it was secured to the railing outside the Church Hall.

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*