



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Emsworth and District U3A
Registered charity, No 1114777

Newsletter Late 2018



A regular visitor to Peter Pond lately

From The Chairman

Hello everyone.

It's always a pleasure to read our newsletter and to catch up on what our groups have been up to. Likewise with reports on trips and social events and wishing that I had had time to join in them all.

Having started the process of updating our Constitution in March 2017 it was a relief to present the final version to you at our September general meeting. It was ironic that our speaker for that meeting was the chair for Hayling Island U3A. Prior to the meeting Paul had been bemoaning the fact that he had tried to find someone to take over his role (having held their AGM the day before) for some time but no-one had come forward. Their constitution does not specify a time in role and he has now resolved to go down the same road as us.

"Time in role" was one of the main reasons for the review as it was felt that a continuous changeover ensured new ideas and energy coming forward and is preferable for the individual and our U3A. Alan Cox and Bill Dawes, who did a sterling job on the review, made use of the model constitution put forward by the Third Age Trust and TAT's suggested times in post. Although three years is used as a maximum in post each committee member has the option to stand down at our AGM each year.

One result of accepting the three years is that four committee members have now reached or passed that time and we now need to find their replacements. Posts being vacated at our AGM will be: Secretary, Speaker's Secretary, Social Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

We have also carried out a review of the posts of our committee. Trips and social activities have now been combined under a sub-committee of three and will be known as Events. Jennie Morris will remain as the main committee representative and, although Madeleine Cox has stepped down from the committee, we are delighted that she has asked to join in as part of the sub-committee. Doug Anderson will continue to work with Jennie and Madeleine. This will result in a continuous calendar of events throughout the year.

Toni Reynaud has also completed three years and despite having to step down he has asked to carry on producing the newsletter in a non-committee position. You all enjoy reading his production and so will very pleased that he will continue to entertain us. What you may not know is that other neighbouring U3As have been so impressed with his work that they have asked for his help in improving their own. Well done, Toni.

As a result we currently need to recruit a Secretary and Speaker's Secretary. Neither role is onerous. Joan has booked speakers through until September 2019 and both Joan and Bill will provide any guidance that you request. Anyone considering either of the posts will be welcome to come along to committee meetings and watch how well we all work together. Being on the committee is interesting and satisfying and an excellent way to get to know more of our members.

Les Pallett

Membership renewal

We are now collecting the 2019 membership subscriptions which are due on 1 January 2019.

The Committee has agreed that the 2019 subscription will remain at £12.50 single and £23 for joint members.

If we have your email address you should have received an email allowing you to check the details we hold for you and a form for you to complete letting us know whether you wish to receive the U3a national magazines, Third Age Matters.

I will have a table at the 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 3 Esmond Close, Emsworth, PO10 7HX. Don't forget to let me know whether you would like to receive the national magazines.

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

Gill Polgreen, Membership Secretary,

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Are you an arachnophobe or spider disliker? Most people are arachnophiles or spider likers because they (the spiders, not the people!) catch and gobble up flies and other small insects. If you are a 'phobe' you may have bought or tried to buy a spray that kills spiders. Such sprays are available but not easy to find because most people don't like killing spiders.

Worry not, however, because several insect or creepy-crawly killer sprays will also kill spiders – it's just that it doesn't say so on the can. One such is **Zero in Total Insect Killer**. The clue is in the two insecticides used: if the spray contains Permethrin 0.14% and Tetramethrin 0.185% then it will kill spiders, even though it doesn't say so on the can. Just follow the instructions. *Mike Woods*



Twitter as a source of humour.....

An actual tweet from Chicago

"I thought my vasectomy would keep my wife from getting pregnant but apparently it just changes the color of the baby."

Questor Visit to Tangmere Museum



Fifteen members shared cars on 10th August to visit Tangmere Museum – and what an interesting visit it was. Tangmere aerodrome was founded in 1917 for the newly formed RFC (Royal Flying Corps), forerunner of the RAF. Mothballed after the First World War, it was re-opened in 1925 and enlarged in 1939 as a fighter base to counter Luftwaffe bombing raids. Many local houses were commandeered by the RAF.

The walls of the museums corridors and small halls are covered in photographs and information panels describing the many activities that took place and the personnel who carried them out. To name but a few, Douglas Bader, he of the 'tin legs,' brought a wing of 616 squadron to Tangmere in 1941 along with air aces Hugh Dundas and Johnnie Johnson who became the Allies highest scoring fighter ace. In 1953 Neville Duke flew from here to set up a new world air speed record of 727.63 mph along a course between Bognor and Littlehampton in a red Hawker Hunter]



Of particular interest to me was the section on the Royal Flying Corps because my father, born 1896, was an Aircraft Mechanic Class II in the RFC (though not at Tangmere). He became interested in the



early use of military radio and after the war opened a radio and electrical shop. When WW 2 started in 1939 this was considered an 'essential service' and instead of being 'called up' he was drafted as an officer in the ATC (Air Training Corps) where he

spent most evenings teaching Morse Code and radio theory to teenage cadets and introducing them to Radar and Aviation.

But back to Tangmere! The SOE (Special Operations Executive) operated from here in wartime Europe and stories of the many brave spies and heroes are detailed in the museum. Tangmere continued to be used by the RAF until 1970 when most of the airfield was returned to farming and many of the buildings demolished. The Museum was opened by a group of ex-service enthusiasts in 1982 and is run by volunteers, one of whom, Mike Bennett, was our guide on a two-hour tour. There are many 'hands-on' exhibits and simulators to keep young and old occupied and a NAAFI style café to keep you going.

Text and photos by Mike Woods



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A Visit to Tangmere Aviation Museum

A few months ago one of our speakers at U3A talked about the SOE at Tangmere during the War – In July they ran a special exhibition about this coupled with an offer of tickets for a showing of the film about Violette Szabo ‘Carve Her Name With Pride’ at the New Park Centre in Chichester – so some members of the Theatre Group decided to book for this.

At the former airfield we were first given a short talk about the SOE, formed on instructions from Winston Churchill to ‘set Europe ablaze’, then went on to look around the Museum which apart from several aircraft had artefacts and information about the agents and aircrew who flew from there, most of them surprisingly young, all of them with huge responsibilities resting on them. We saw a replica of the Lysander aeroplane which flew agents in and out of occupied countries, a rather clumsy looking machine with very high wings, capable of taking off and landing in a short distance, and read

accounts of problems pilots had in landing back at Tangmere when it was misty (radar was not available then) and the tragic deaths of several who crashed when attempting to come down. There was so much to see that we could not cover it all in the time, so will have to visit again. I spoke to one lady who lived near the airfield as a child and whose parents kept the 'safe house' where the agents waited to be flown across. After lunch at the museum café we drove into Chichester to the New Park Centre and watched the film (most of us had seen it many years ago) and were surprised at how fresh it still seemed, Virginia McKenna's performance was very believable. It was of course sanitised for the camera but we knew of the terrible things which were done to Violette and other agents who were caught – most of us shed some tears. At the end of the film we were given a short talk by Violette Szabo's daughter, Tania, who was a baby when her mother was killed. She talked a little about her mother and about the violence there is in the world, ending by saying we should not imagine that it could not happen here – 'there are always people who have this capability in them'. We left with a great deal to think about and huge respect for all those young people who gave their lives for us.

Dorothy Lawson

Photo—Dorothy Lawson



In the footsteps of William Turner

On a beautiful day in August thirty one of us embarked the canal boat “Richmond” at the Chichester canal basin and set sail along the Chichester Ship Canal. The weather was perfect, sunny but not too hot. As we sailed past reeds, families of ducks and coots and were overtaken by cyclists on the towpath, it was so calm and tranquil. Our crew and guide were friendly and very knowledgeable and we learned about the history of the canal which had been built to assist the war effort in the Napoleonic Wars by being part of the inland waterway linking Portsmouth to London. Unfortunately the canal wasn’t opened until after the war was over and by then larger ships going by sea were much cheaper consequently the investors lost a lot of money. After half an hour we were served fish and chips with a glass of wine, the quality of which far exceeded our expectations. On the way back we stopped and disembarked by the bridge from where JMW Turner had painted his famous picture of the canal with Chichester Cathedral in the background, which is now part of the Tate Collection. It was amazing how little had changed since 1829!

Madeleine Cox



Photo—Madeleine Cox

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!

2018	November	Opera Appreciation / Tai Chi
	December	<i>No meeting</i>
2019	January	Craft / Discussion
	February	Listening to Jazz / Bridge
	March	Cycling / Music Appreciation
	April	Scrabble / Mahjong
	May	Birdwatching / Hebrew

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QR (Quick Response) code is the trademark name for the two dimensional barcode system. It was originally invented in 1994 by Denso Wave, a Toyota subsidiary, as a way to track vehicles as they were assembled, and to scan components at high speeds. QR codes are a technology that desperately wants our attention. They appear everywhere from supermarket shelves and magazines to hiking trails and tombstones. Never heard of a QR code? You're looking at one right now. Scan the image to the right of this article, and it'll open a link to the web address



www.emsworthu3a.org.uk

Diary note, Christmas lunch 2018 will be at the Langstone Hotel on Thursday 6th December 2018.

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Future Talks

November 16 th	Brian Freeland	Cardinal Richelieu
December		Christmas lunch
January 18 th 2019	Trevor Davies	Warblington Roman Villa
February 15th	AGM	AGM
March 15th	Adrian Fox	Tribes of Ethiopia
April 26th	April Owton	The Show goes on
May 17th	Ryan Watts	Rotten boroughs and Inns

Please note. The April monthly meeting has been postponed for one week due to the Easter holiday

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

Model Railways – Just Toys for Boys?

Many believe that model railways are just about driving trains round and round and to some extent that is correct. For others it is not about trains but concentrating on other aspects, whether that concerns control systems, the scenery or the architecture of the buildings.

Scenery is very much like studying art. Not modern!! Scenery is the area around track and is intended to give life to a layout, to try to make it look like the real thing but in a smaller scale. Just like a painter who asks, is grass the correct shade of green, what tree is that representing or does a cliff look like a cliff? Very satisfying when someone stops to look at your miniature trees instead of your locos.



Architecture is very similar. Do the buildings, whether the station or houses, accurately portray the time or location that you intending modelling? It can be as satisfying to study and then build a model of a pub as it is to go in the real thing for a beer. Well nearly!



An extension of the architecture of a layout also covers the positioning of buildings and the way track is laid out to reflect the “real thing”. As an example, both our group’s layout and my own are based on Deutsche Bundesbahn practices in what was West Germany. This is typified by low platforms, most goods traffic being diverted around platforms and passengers strolling across track instead of using bridges or tunnels.

The technology for controlling a layout is a subject in itself. Indeed, our science group asked for a talk and demonstration on the control systems used on our layout. For some modellers clockwork engines are sufficient while others utilise wifi. Most modellers enjoy some element of all of these aspects. In the best traditions of the U3A there are so many skills that you can learn, develop or demonstrate. Even if you have no interest in model railways but are willing to help us develop our scenery or architecture then we have space for you in our group.



Or maybe you just wish to drive trains!

Les Pallett

U3A EMSWORTH CYCLING PROGRAM for 2018

A new cycling group has started in the Emsworth U3A. 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 October	18th October Hol	1st November
Southsea	Stoke	Hayling
10 Miles E/W	8.5 Miles E/W	10 Miles E/W
Flat Ride	Small Hills	Flat Ride

15th November	6th December	20th December
Fishbourne	Southsea	Stoke
10 Miles E/W	10 Miles E/W	8.5 Miles E/W
Small Hills	Flat Ride	Small Hills



CRAFT by Valerie Allen

Over the last few months the craft group has experimented with a range of materials, on occasion reaching outside our comfort zone to acquire new skills. On this journey we have had fun. Collage in August was very relaxing—an antidote to the hectic lives we all lead—a moment to step out of the sun and do something gentle! There was not too much concentration required in this session, so plenty of chatter.



In July, our medium was paper—beautiful colours and patterns that we contrasted and mixed to create shapes and forms whilst exploring the art of Iris-Folding. This is a paper craft technique which involves folding paper in sequence within a template to form a design. At the centre is the Iris, a shape that is reminiscent of the iris diaphragm of the camera lens. The layers of paper on the card lead the eye to an image captured at the heart of the design. Concentration and accuracy is required, but the results are definitely worth the effort.



In our June meeting we were lucky to have the leadership of Ali Fountain who exhibited her wetfelting at the Emsworth Arts Trail. This was a challenging session and jolly hard work on the arms. Believe me when I say that a lot of physical work goes into wet-felted creations. I had tried a little of this with a previous tutor when I adventurously attempted to make a miniature dog. It wasn't very successful because Lincoln was very hesitant at putting a name to the shape I took home—he wasn't sure if it was a Llama or a horse! Anyway, I digress. Ali guided us over two and a half hours

through the stages required to produce a small bowl. The results were better than we could hope for, colourful, diverse and individual!



September has just passed and there are the first hints of Autumn. Last week with

sunshine streaming through the windows as we worked with acrylic paint on stone and paper. Our aim was to create a Mandala stone paperweight using the Aboriginal method of dot painting. We started by experimenting



with different designs on black card before transferring these ideas permanently onto stone. The Mandala is a spiritual and ritual symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism representing the universe. Some people use the stones as visual aids for contemplation or meditation. Regardless of their link to religion, they are eye catching and beautiful. We may not have been a group of artists, but the result of our efforts was visually vibrant and stunning.

Mustn't forget our quilted pods - Thank you, Gail!



Wine Appreciation Visit To the Albourne Estate

The Wine Appreciation Group is looking to add some new members to the group. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. Although the meeting time may seem strange, Peter Richards, who founded the group, felt that our taste buds are at their best in the morning. We can promise you one thing, a morning full of smiles and laughter.

The format for our meetings are themed presentations by members of the group or by experts who come to us to present unique wines and inform us of the latest trends in the fields and share their personal journey that brought them into the wine industry.

Together, we give our personal opinions of each wine presented by rating the wines from 1 to 10 with an emphasis on value for money. As the mission of the U3A is to continue to learn as we proceed through the 3rd age, so too, we do our best to impart what we have learned and are open to new ideas.

The best part of our group meetings is the fun and joking as we discuss our personal feelings about a particular wine. One member of the group has a strong preference for Reds. On many occasions the rating given on a white can be a 2 to 4, but on one occasion, a rating of 9 was given, a cause for hope for white wine.

Our recent visit on 9 October to Albourne Estate followed by a Wine Tasting lunch was a great success. We were blessed with a picture perfect day full of sunshine. On arrival, the Vineyard was buzzing with grape pickers and machinery transferring the grapes in the wine making room.

Alison Nightingale, owner of Albourne Estate Wines, was our host and guide. She explained how she decided to become a vineyard owner and the importance of first being educated in the skill of planting and caring for the

vines and the science of producing wines of excellence. She explained and demonstrated how the vines are pruned to produce shoots and grapes from year to year. She also compared last year's wine production to this year. The 2017 harvest produced one fifth of the harvest of this season's





production. Alison told us that last season the weather created a 30 year low for production and this season the production is a 30 year high. We all know that the crucial factor for wine production is the weather. A late spring frost or a rainy summer are both reasons for low production, while a frost free spring and hot and dry summers produce the highest production. Alison also said the long days of sunshine followed by cool nights and little rain have allowed for delayed picking allowing the grapes to ripen more than usual allowing her to experiment with more varieties of still wines including reds, which are not common in the UK. Following the Vineyard tour we went into the wine making facility. The production process

was explained as were how blending and tasting the grapes produced the finest quality wine. Alison pointed out how the production of wine has improved with technology. Having tanks that are temperature controlled allow for controlling the production of yeast and having under or over sweetened wine.

From the production area we went to the tasting room. We tasted a Pinot Grigiot, a sparkling wine and then a Vermouth, a new product for Albourne. English whites are known for their dry, fresh crisp taste. Alison explained that these bottles have a screw top to keep the wine least affected by air getting into the bottles. Our final tasting was the Vermouth, named 40, to represent the 40 different herbs and spices used in production. A fortified wine practice, as the alcohol content is 18 percent.

The sparkling wines are different in that they sit in the bottles and after at least three years the sediment from the yeast must be released from the bottle. The time and attention devoted to producing sparkling wine in the Champagne style is why it is so costly.

We went on to the Royal Oak in Wineham, a pub dating to the 1500s, for a three course tasting lunch. A local winemaker, who produces his wines in Spain was on hand to explain his red and white and the Spanish Sherry that was matched to the first course. The hit of the day was the pigeon with chorizo and chickpeas matched to a Tempranillo.

All agreed that this was as one of the best vineyard tours they have experienced.

Steve Gorban.

Photos Steve Gorban & Madeleine Cox



Winter is coming—be prepared! Last year's experience:

8:00 a.m. I built a snowman.

8:10 A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.

8:15 So, I built a snow woman.

8:17 My feminist neighbor complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified snow women everywhere.

8:20 The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snow men instead.

8:22 The transgender ma..wom...person asked why I didn't just build one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.

8:28 I am being called a racist, because the snow couple is white.

8:31 The Muslim gent across the road demands the snow woman wear a burka.

8:40 The Police arrive saying someone has been offended.

8:42 The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needs to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 The council equality officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 TV news crew from the BBC shows up. I am asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I reply, "Snowballs? I am now called a sexist.

9:00 I'm on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobic sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 I am asked if I have any accomplices. My children are taken by social services.

9:29 Far left protesters offended by everything are marching down the street demanding that I be beheaded.

9:30 Schools have been closed so that sensitive children will not be exposed to these elements.

Moral: There is no moral to this story. It's just a view of the world in which we live today

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. *Tom*