



JULY 2024 newsletter

Ukrainian Choir sing patriotic songs at Havant



I was lucky to be at a Solent Male Voice Choir concert a couple of weeks ago where they had invited The Ukrainian Volya Choir to join them. It was at St. Faiths Church in Havant and in the presence of other Ems Valley members.

The choir was formed in the Chichester area in the spring of 2022 when mainly women from all different parts of Ukraine met and got acquainted with

each other for the first time in this country. The choir started when they decided to get together to sing carols before Christmas 2022. They decided on the name "Volya". What does Volya mean? We were told it means a concept broader than freedom, close to the indomitability of a free, unconquered spirit! The programme tells us that their aims are to:



- 1) To make the English people be acquainted with the Ukrainian culture and traditions.
- 2) Help victims of the war, buy necessary equipment for the soldiers which save their lives, send donations to the children who are suffering from the war.
- 3) Unite Ukrainians for the implementation of various creative projects and spiritual communication.
- 4) To express our gratitude to the British people who opened their hearts, souls and homes to us through our activities.

Huw Thomas directed the Male Voice Choir and the Volya choir had three spots presenting Jazz, Folk, Spiritual and Patriotic songs. The highlight of the evening was a joint rendering of "Hey Jude" by Lennon and McCartney. Star of the show? The little eight year old, extreme left, front row who knew every song by heart and made sure we all heard him!

Editor

Star billing for "Letters to the Editor" in the u3a Matters magazine

Did you read Anne Powell's letter to the Editor this month? Our Chair for three years before she moved to Warwick has received star letter billing from Sharon Parsons the new editor of our national magazine. You can read her "Don't put it off until you are any older" letter below, if you missed this. Anne told me that she was sorry that the letter was not printed in full, because her references to Ems Valley u3a were deleted... But, you can deduce from her letter, she is already making her mark with her new u3a, Warwick and District!

mailbox

We love to hear from you, so please email your letters, including your name and u3a, with 'Mailbox' in the subject line to editor@u3a.org.uk, or post to the u3a office



The u3a offers a nationwide network of friendship

A warm welcome

Making big changes later in life can be daunting, but as this member has discovered, the support and friendship of the u3a can make it an exciting and fulfilling time

I've lived all my life on the south coast of our beautiful country but recently moved to the Midlands, leaving behind a huge group of much-loved friends.

Why? Well, both my offspring live here, together with grandchildren. I always intended to join them 'when I got older'. However, having reached yet another O last year, I suddenly cottoned on that it was maybe time to move so that I might forge a great new life. I had a brilliant send-off

at the AGM of my then u3a where I was chair, as well as with my singing group. The very next day, I moved to the Midlands.

I had joined my new u3a a couple of months beforehand, and received a lovely welcome by email and letter. Ten days after moving, I went along to their monthly open meeting and again was made welcome. Since then, I've been lucky enough to join the committee, started a new group (singing for non-singers) and joined

a couple of other ones. Within seven months of moving to a completely new part of the country, I have a new tribe in the making!

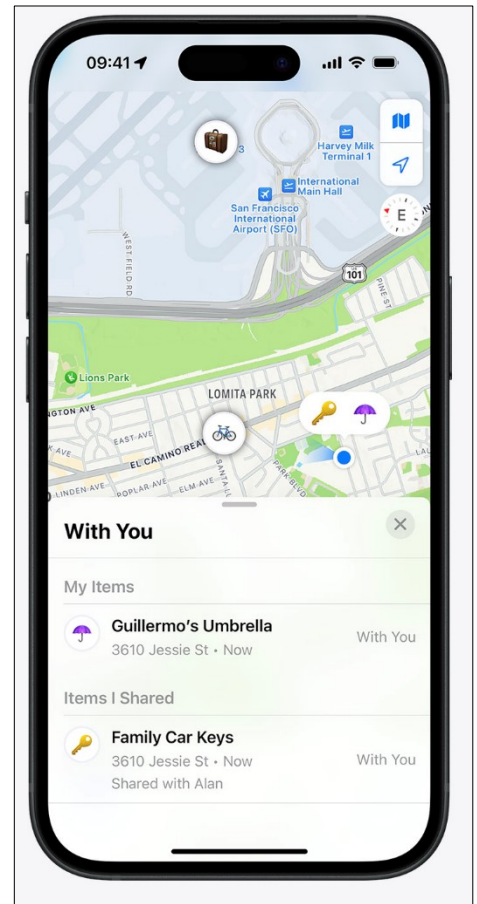
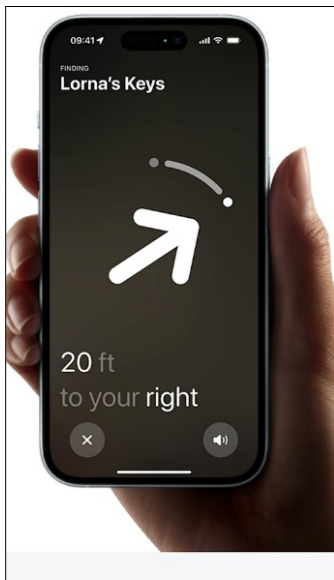
Do I miss my life-long friends? Of course! We had shared history and experiences, tragedies and joys, and those can't be replaced. But if you are thinking that you ought - or could - move to be nearer to family, u3a is the perfect vehicle to hitch to your star.

Don't put it off until you are any older!
Anne Powell, Warwick District u3a



STEM Group:- Learns about Smart Tags in June and looks forward to a talk in July on Drinking Water Treatment

Our STEM JUNE meeting covered the strange sounding topic of SMART TAGS. Put simply these turned out to be very useful tracking devices for when we've yet again left our handbag on the counter in Havant Library. Or missed picking up one of the suitcases in an airport. these turned out to be very useful tracking devices for when we've yet again left our handbag on the counter in Havant Library. Or missed picking up one of the suitcases in an airport. Our illustrious leader, Geoff Whalley, showed us the tags he has – and is hugely grateful for! – and how they work. A small disc goes inside your handbag, powered by a tiny battery. If the bag is lost, at a long distance, the disc links to someone else's phone who is close by to it (iPhone or Android depending on what your phone is), which sends a message to Apple/ Samsung HQ – which then tells Geoff where his bag is, anywhere in the world. Quite amazing – and quite a cheek to be piggy backing off someone else's phone and they know nothing about it! The tracking distance of the GPS for this is to within 3 metres – but this is old technology. But, what if you've (yet again) left your car keys somewhere in the house? The tag must be within 10 metres of your phone – but it will guide you to the missing item to within a 6 inch radius – demonstrated by Geoff because I had his wallet! This uses Ultra Wide Band (UWB) - new technology which promises to do incredible things for us in the future. All this for around £25- £30. On your list for Santa perhaps?



Santa perhaps?

At our **JULY STEM MEETING**, Bruce Corney will be giving us a talk about the Drinking Water treatment Process – quite topical with recent news events! Screening, chemical treatment and testing are used extensively to prevent harmful bacteria and chemical substances polluting our precious drinking water.



Do you ever wonder how the rain that falls from the sky ends up in your taps, or how we treat it and then get it to you? Well, between it falling from the sky and coming out of your taps, there's a whole process that involves hundreds of treatment sites. Water companies work 24 hours a day to make sure that they provide you with the best-quality water. Bruce has worked for most of his career in water treatment, mostly in UK with a 10 year interval in Hong Kong. He was a member of the institution of Civil Engineers and the Chartered institution of Water and Environmental Scientists. His talk will outline the development of water treatment processes in response to the various challenges in UK since treatment was started about 200 years ago. This will be a general talk with illustrations. To conclude the

talk Bruce will give an outline of where Emsworth's water comes from, and the treatment it currently receives. Portsmouth Water have kindly offered us visits to one of their water treatment works, so Bruce will send out further details by the time of the talk to gauge interest in this. Our July meeting will be on Thursday 4th July, at 2.00 pm, at our usual venue – St James Parish Hall. All members of Ems Valley U3A are invited to join us if interested. Just let us know, via stem@emsvalleyu3a.org.

Pam Palmer

More Wine Notes:

Takamaka Boutique Winery (Est 2009)

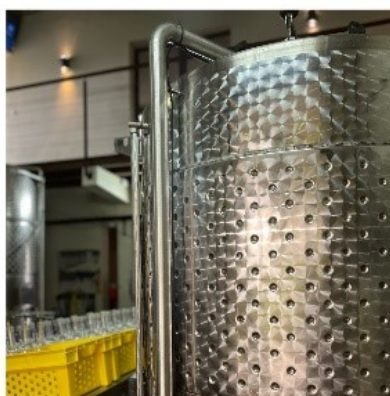
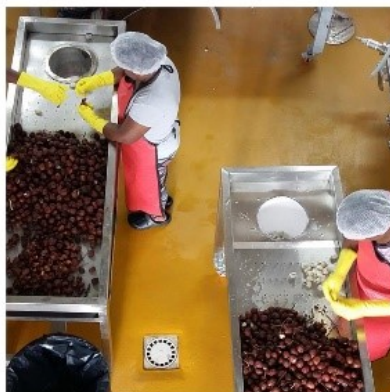
During my visit to a friend in Mauritius I was informed of a unique winery on the island. Immediately intrigued and wanting to know more, a visit was planned in order to report back any findings to our very own wine guru Alan Borrow. This micro winery in Mauritius prides itself in its originality and authenticity. The fact there is not a grape to be seen on Mauritius only made owner, Alexander Oxenham think differently, it has taken years of research and hard work to fulfil his dream.

It's history stems back to the 1930s when Alexander's grandfather made wine from raisins. His first ever batches of wine were a little hit and miss on whether it was wine or vinegar. This was due to the ever changing climate during fermentation in barrels. When Alexander's father took over he brought in new methods and made wine from grape concentrate which was more successful and consistent.

Two generations on and Alexander makes wine using high tech equipment and quality Mauritian lychees from local orchards.

However even with all the new machinery, the lychees are picked, washed, inspected, peeled, and de-stoned by hand. After fermenting in large vats, some of the wine is bottled immediately and some is matured in oak barrels for a year for a more unique flavour. The left over solids are returned to the land as fertiliser and the vats cleaned with specially collected rain water, which is also used to

irrigate and fertilise the soil, either in the orchards or on their vegetable garden. thus ensuring this amazing winery not only produces unique exquisite wine, but is kind to the environment at the same time. We tasted 3 wines and



they were all deliciously different.

Aquarel - Blanc de Litchi - Demi-sec. 12.5% (Fresh, fruity and citrus.) £12 We found this to be similar to a Sauvignon Blanc, delicately fruity with a citrus tang, dangerously easy to drink and quite refreshing in the heat of the day.

Aperichy - Rose de Litchi - Demi-sec. 12.5% (Floral and fruity.) £12

We thought this slightly sweeter perhaps more akin to a Chardonnay, a more fruity flavour of strawberries with a distinct hint of rose petals.

Eclipse - Blanc de Litchi - Moelleux. 12.5% (Rose, apricot and peach.) £24

This one we found to be quite rich and sweet with the taste of well ripened fruit, perfect as a dessert wine.

We were totally delighted and impressed with this grape free wine and curious to know how others feel about wine made from ingredients other than grapes.

Needless to say bottles of Aquarel were purchased and enjoyed in the following evenings with some of the great French bread and cheese found on this beautiful island



paradise.

Dbee Robinson (Wine 1 – Trainee!)

A very different view of the Mill Pond that I saw on a facebook page:



Loseley House visit by Daytrippers

We had a great outing to Loseley house in June. The joy of Loseley House is that so little has changed, for the current house is still fundamentally that built in the 16th century. There have been minor internal alterations – and an entire wing was added in the 17th century and then lost – but to all intents the house you see now would still be familiar to its original occupants!

The story of Loseley Park begins with the purchase of the Manor of Loseley during the reign of Henry VII. As Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex the purchaser, Sir Christopher More, was a man of considerable influence and power, yet it was his son, Sir William More, also a direct ancestor of the current owner, who first began building work in earnest.

As was common, much of the stone was reclaimed from earlier buildings, in Loseley's case from the Cistercian Abbey of Waverley ten miles away at Farnham where ruins can still be seen. That honey-





coloured monastic stone was fortunate, for it lends Loseley House a peaceful, deep and mellow mood that can still be felt today. In the centuries that followed the fortunes of the More-Molyneux family waxed and waned. As in every ancient family, there were unfortunate marriages and political successes, times of influences and times when it seemed the family and the house might



finally be parted.

Yet the link remains unbroken. The 500 year story of the More-Molyneux family and their home at Loseley Park House continues. Our lovely tour was led by Steve Gorban's wife who is a volunteer there, and it was followed by lunch and then a guided tour of the beautiful gardens which were full of roses This tour was led by one of the gardeners.

Annette Southwell

BYGONE DAYS



Seen in Gunwharf recently, two of our previous Chairmen.

Keith Davies on the left was our fourth chairman in the last century (or was it?) Richard Swaine (with ice cream all round his mouth) was our fifth chairman and founder of "Spanish for Emsworth"

Good to see them enjoying themselves in the sun!"

The Emsworth Magazine is now hitting our doormats



Issue number five was received last week, congratulations to Fiona Wilson who also produces the VILLAGE MAGAZINE for all stations east of us here in Emsworth.

It is a brilliant little magazine produced and delivered to us free of charge, and I have sent Fiona two letters of thanks and encouragement, one editor to another if you get the drift!

One article that particularly caught my eye this month was the “Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition.” I well remember Jeff Thatcher telling us all about Maurice Broomfield at our Photography class and in particular, his historic Industrial Photography work.

I also recall seeing some of the results of the competition that he inaugurated so that school children in our area should be encouraged to become photographers.

The Emsworth Magazine article in the June edition mentioned that the 2024 photos had been judged in early April and then printed and mounted for presentaion. There was a prize for the winner in each school year (3 to 6). All of these photos were on display at the Emsworth Arts Trail. The prize giving ceremony for the 2024 Broomfield Photography Competition was held on 3rd May and this year, the well known documentary film director Nick Broomfield (Maurice’s son) attended the prize giving and was photographed with all of the winners. The article states that the standard was

extremely high, making the judges’ job more difficult.

Editor

Below: A previous years entries displayed at the Emsworth Community Centre.



HAVE YOU VISITED THE CHAPEL THAT INSPIRED JOHN KEATS?



Reg Newnham, our leader of Local History group, has arranged a visit and guided tour of a very special chapel right here on our doorstep!

Way back in 1644, Stansted House was attacked by Parliamentary forces. By the end of the day of attack, the house, built in 1480 on the site of the former hunting lodge, was in ruins. A new house was built in 1688, which commanded views across the coastal plain to the Solent and over parkland to the East and West. You are all familiar with this stately home. The ruins of the original House successively became stock sheds, a brewery and a bailiff's house until this Chapel of St Paul was built there by the Reverend Lewis Way in 1807. It is a Regency building incorporates earlier structures, and is by an unknown architect. It has had a colourful history and is Grade 1 listed. It was consecrated on 25th January 1819 (the Feast of Conversion of St Paul) by the Bishops of St David's and Gloucester. It contains a unique East window with Christian/Jewish iconography and Hebrew Tablets of the Ten commandments. John Keats attended the consecration service, along with 300 people, and like many of them, is rumoured to have stood at the back. He used the Chapel's imagery in his poems *The Eve of St Agnes* and *The Eve of St Mark*.



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"*The Eve of St. Agnes*" is Keats's tale of passion, legends, danger, and dreams. In this narrative poem, Porphyro, a young nobleman, creeps into the castle of his enemies to catch a glimpse of his love, the beautiful Madeline. Madeline happens to be performing a magical ritual that very night, calling on St. Agnes to send her a dream of her future husband. Porphyro decides he'll do her one better and creeps into her bedroom to make her dream a reality! This poem explores both the power of sexual passion and the dangerous allure of fantasy. This is powerful stuff and in order to fully capture some of it, Reg has asked our very own John Gains, amateur thespian of some note, (*Call my Wine Bluff* and *'Allo 'Allo*) to give a reading in the very Chapel in which it was written..... It all promises to be an afternoon of some note! You will have received an invitation to attend if you are a member of the Local History group. **If you are not, and wish to go on Friday 5th July at 2.00pm, please contact Reg Newnham via the Ems Valley web site to obtain his agreement.** I believe he will welcome you!

Happy Memories.....



The above photo was taken by our intrepid traveller Neil Cowell who accompanied his wife Lynn to Desanzano del Garda last month. So, what is the story? Well, there are two: firstly the restaurant is run by a charity that helps disadvantaged and disabled people find work, and led by a most well meaning manager who champions this aim. Secondly it is the very venue where the Wine Group spent their last day on the 2018 Italian wine trip. If any of the forty nine winos who were part of that trip in June 2018 remember, we had a very late flight home and it was my idea to spend as long as possible in Desanzano, which entailed taking a leisurely lunch in the restaurant that Neil and Lynn revisited.

That communal lunch was first class and our members were so taken by the concept of the recruitment ideals that they held an impromptu collection at the close and made a significant donation to the manager, for his charity. He, in turn, was quite moved!

Neil said his lunch was good – also!

Alan Borrow

I'm not sure what is more frightening, the car accident, grandma still in the car, or Grandpa's pants...



**I was lonely until I glued
a coffee cup onto my car.**



Now everybody waves at me!

**Apparently there is now a
third option:
Burial, Cremation or the
Hedge Cutting contractor**



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow1@gmail.com

(please note new email address)