



## June Newsletter

### Interview with Hilary Street, Our Ems Valley u3a Treasurer

**Hello Hilary, we are indebted to you for your work as our Ems Valley u3a treasurer. Does it involve you in a lot of work?**

The work level varies during the year. There are particularly busy periods, such as preparing the accounts, submitting the gift aid claim and preparing quarterly monitoring reports. Outside of these, the day to day activities of making payments, banking and updating the accounts aren't too demanding and I am ably assisted by my other half with the banking, (as he has asked me to point out!). I actually quite like always having something to do, there's no chance of being bored.

Introducing GoCardless has been particularly time consuming, but the hope is that in the long run it will save time for both myself and the Membership Secretary. It's an investment of our time now to make the roles less time consuming, so that members will be willing to volunteer for these positions in the future.

**Ed: When did you take over this responsibility from John Blaber?**

I took over from John in the summer of 2022.

**Ed: Are there any major differences, in the way you do our "books" and the way John did it?**

Not really. Things have evolved over time, due to changes made to our accounting software by the developers, so there are some differences. The introduction of GoCardless has also brought changes.

**Ed: How long have you lived in the Emsworth area?**

Since May 1992, when Nigel and I moved from Surrey. However, I grew up in Havant, only moving to London after University. My best friend lived in Emsworth and I spent a lot of my childhood cycling over to hers to play, particularly down on the foreshore. The roads were much safer then and we were lucky enough to have a lot of freedom to roam about the area. I was pleased when job opportunities enabled us to move back 'home', closer to family and familiar places.

**Ed: Tell us a bit about your earlier days and your working life?**

I had a happy childhood, growing up in a large family. I attended Warblington School, where Angela, (or Mrs Armstrong as I struggle not to call her), was my form teacher. I took my A levels at Purbrook Park School and went to University in Leicester, where I met Nigel, who was working towards his PhD. I began my career training to be a chartered accountant with one of the larger firms in London. However, the job didn't inspire me and I felt like a small cog in a large machine. I made the switch to the public sector via the Audit Commission, who used to audit local



authorities, at a time when London Boroughs were constantly in the news for their battles with central government, so it was as interesting as auditing can be! I then decided I wanted to do the accounts myself, rather than inspecting what others had done and work as an accountant in a local council. I completed my CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) training at Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and on qualifying I moved to the London Borough of Croydon. When we moved to Emsworth, I took up the post of Chief Financial Accountant at Eastleigh Borough Council.

As I'm sure will resonate with a lot of our female members, my 'brilliant career' more or less stalled on starting a family. I was lucky to be able to take a career break for a few years, then I took a series of part time jobs to fit in with family responsibilities, including working for Chichester City Council, (effectively Chichester's parish council), Hampshire County Council's school finance support team and for West Sussex County Council, mainly as Accountant to Chichester Harbour Conservancy at their Itchenor office. Although these weren't high flying positions, they exposed me to interesting experiences and people along the way that I wouldn't otherwise have had and I really appreciate the time I was able to spend with my two boys. Chichester City Council's remit included all the ceremonial functions associated with a mayor, including social events at the Town Hall and we would get to taste the wine first, just to check it was suitable! I can also claim to have held Patricia Routledge's coat when helping out at one of the functions!

Working for Chichester Harbour Conservancy was an insight into a whole new world. The Conservancy's role is to manage Chichester Harbour and it has both nautical and environmental responsibilities. The Harbour Office in Itchenor was a beautiful place to work.

Throughout this time, I livened things up by volunteering for CIPFA, my accounting institute, managing the website for one of their regional member groups - the one covering members working in Europe. As a result, I was invited to the Group's annual meetings in Brussels or Luxembourg, which gave me the chance to live out my fantasy of working there, (which events of 2016 meant would sadly remain a fantasy). I did manage to haul my career back to Management level while working for West Sussex County Council, but I became bored and decided to become a School Business Manager, taking a post in a large local primary school. They say be careful what you wish for, as I was never bored there! It was one of the most demanding, but also rewarding, roles I had held. My responsibilities included HR, health and safety and property maintenance, as well as finance. I really enjoyed working with people from so many different backgrounds and every day was different.

I took early retirement so that we could spend more time travelling, Nigel having already retired at that time.

**Left: Hilary with husband Nigel in Delft this past March.**



***Ed: I assume that you are fully retired, what takes up your time other than u3a matters?***

I am fully retired, but I take the occasional part time role when it comes up, such as working as a poll clerk at elections. I usually begin the week at Chichester Festival Theatre, where they have a programme of community classes, singing in the morning and dancing in the afternoon, (no auditions required!). I try to get to the gym at least once a week to lift weights, something my sons got me into. I'm starting an Italian evening class, preparing for a visit to my sister in Italy later this year.

Other than that, my time is taken up with walking, cycling, National Trust visits, seeing family and gardening, the usual retiree activities!

***Ed: What interest groups have you joined since you joined us?***

French, Art Appreciation, and Wine are my main u3a interests. Carol's Advanced French group was the first one I joined. (it was the only one with a place available, I really don't think I'm an advanced speaker!) We're very lucky to have Carol as a teacher and Group Leader.

Susan and Catherine have put a lot of effort into preparing the Art Appreciation meetings over the years and will be missed when they step down. I've learnt a lot from them and other members.

I was a member of both French and Art Appreciation during the covid pandemic and the meetings we had on Zoom were bright points in a gloomy time. They also provided something to prepare for, so were much appreciated.

I've been a member of Mark's Wine 5 group and I've really enjoyed the social side of it. Unfortunately it clashes with the evening class I've just started, so I won't be able to attend for a while, but Nigel and I have recently joined Wine 1, run by your estimable self Alan, of course, so I won't be missing out on my wine fix!

***Ed: Regarding the newsletter, would you like to read any different themes which you might feel would make the Newsletter more interesting. (Remember one member said at a recent business meeting: "I only look at it for the jokes"!)***

No, I think the newsletter is great as it is.

**Ed: As a relative newcomer to our u3a, what would you say are our best attributes, or any worst ones?**

I've met a lot of friendly members and there's a wide range of interest groups to join. I can't think of anything to complain about.

**Ed: How have you found your experience of being on the Committee?**

I was initially reluctant to come forward and volunteer as Treasurer when I heard someone was needed, thinking I wasn't a committee person, but I don't regret having done so. I've enjoyed working with other members of the Committee to get things done and getting to know them, and other members, better. I've found that the whole experience of membership is improved by getting more involved.

## 'Local History' visits the Staunton Country Park



Twenty visited the site of two different Leigh Park mansions on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and were entertained and educated by a most talented guide. The picture on the left shows the site of the second house built in the 1860s but we never actually got that far. There was so much to see and it was a very hot day that the guide and our leader Reg, decided to save this part of the park for another visit! We learnt that the park landscape has been improved over time by a

variety of owners, starting with William Garret in 1802. The first house was built well before 1800 and added to and improved with several different owners. The most pivotal update was Sir George Staunton, who owned Leigh Park between 1781-1859 and is credited with introducing Earl Grey tea to the United Kingdom. (and we were told that he was one of just three people in the UK who were fluent in Mandarin!) In fact, the name Staunton Country Park was chosen to replace the previous name, Leigh Park Gardens, in 1987 to honour Sir George Staunton.

When William Henry Stone bought Leigh Park at auction in October 1860 he was then only aged only 27 and not long out of Cambridge University. He was the son of William Stone of Dulwich Hill, London, a London merchant and staunch supporter of the Liberal Party. When Stone first saw Leigh Park he had reservations. The idea of the farm so close to the old house did not appeal and he thought the house could be placed at a more convenient site in the grounds. It also appears that Stone was no garden enthusiast, as a huge number of Staunton's garden features were later to disappear during his ownership.

Stone employed a former University acquaintance, Richard Drew, to design the new house for him. The place chosen was on the highest point of the estate, with extensive views over Leigh Water towards Havant Thicket and the Forest of Bere. Richard Drew was only a year older than Stone, and Leigh Park was one of his first major commissions. The Victorian Gothic style mansion (**see pic below**) designed by Drew looked quite a lot larger than the Staunton mansion, but the dimensions were very similar in size. The bricks and tiles were made on site.

Stone carried on the tradition of Staunton, his benevolence to the people of Havant can still be found around the area, and the Stone Allotment Trust in New Lane still bears his name after his gift to the town, as does the Old Town Hall, now the Spring, of which he was a major benefactor. He also opened the park and gardens to the public as on one occasion; the Queen's birthday on 25th May 1867, nearly 20,000 people incredibly visited the estate!

The Royal Navy and the Admiralty took possession of the entire site in August 1940. The house was the headquarters of HM.S. Vernon and the Superintendent of Mine Design and his staff for the whole duration of the war. Nissen huts were erected along the drive and Leigh Park was effectively cut off from the outside world. Secret work on the design of mines and torpedoes was carried out here and no doubt Staunton's lake played its part in the war effort!

In 1944 Portsmouth City Council bought the Leigh Park Estate. They planned to build a new overspill community there and purchased a total of 1,670 acres. Work on building Leigh Park began in 1947 when the mayor of Portsmouth operated a digger and dug the first sod.

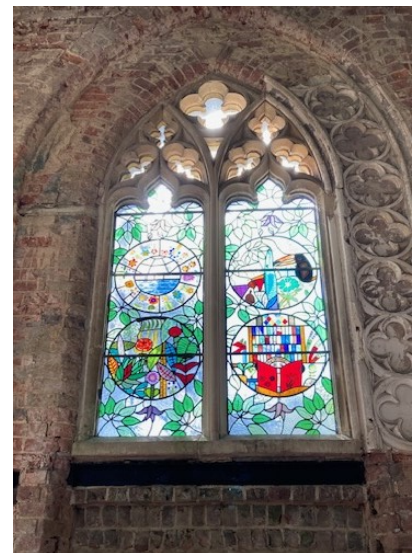


Technically the house remained under Admiralty control until 1957 but by this time, the ravages of vandalism had taken their toll and in June 1959 the decision to demolish the house was taken.

Local History look forward to a second visit here to admire the view that William Stone would have first had when he settled on the site of the second house (top photo)! Many thanks to Reg Newnhan for organising.

**Editor**

Pics taken on our tour, clockwise left to right: hot-houses, conservatories, part of the Stable block, library stained glass windows, one and two with Chinese scenes, and inside the hothouse – temperature over 100 degrees on the day!



## SE u3a Forum Summer School

Monday 1st – Thursday 4th September 2025 at the University of Chichester

**Bookings are OPEN but many courses are full. If you are interested in the following courses still with space, go to web site “South East u3a Forum” and book now**

- Italian – Intermediate
- Latin - for Roman Britain & Beyond
- Mathematics – People & Paradoxes
- Patchwork - Beginners
- Poetry – Australian poets
- Yoga – Mat, Standing & Seated

The costings for 2025 summer school are as follows:

Residential - En-Suite £405.00 Residential - Standard £375.00

Non-Residential with dinner £240.00 Non-Residential no dinner £180.00

The residential prices include accommodation, all meals and refreshments offered at break times and a ‘Welcome’ drink on the first evening, with a ‘Farewell’ drink on the last evening, both prior to dinner.

There will also be entertainment on campus, each evening, which is included in the pricing



## ANYONE FOR PETANQUE?



I joined the Pétanque group a little over a year ago, not knowing exactly what to expect. I'd only played with my children on holiday when they were small, using a set of plastic boules bought in a French campsite, and worried about whether I'd be good enough. I needn't have worried because the group were so friendly and welcoming, and gave me some great tips to get me started, and I can now hold my own among the more experienced members.

The group was started six years ago and was efficiently and enthusiastically led by Barbara Stevens, who we very much miss as she sadly is no longer with us. The group meets every week, weather permitting, at the Seacourt Tennis Club on Hayling Island. We play at 10.30, for about an hour and half, following which many of us retire to the clubhouse for a coffee and a chat.

### Here are some comments from members of the group:

“We have such a great group who enjoy a very social and competitive atmosphere. We enjoy each other's company and even share encouragement and congratulations with the opposing team members' brilliant shots!” - Anne G

“A welcoming group and a compulsive game. Good friends and good competition.” - Stuart

“A reminder of holidays in France, with a great group.” - Pat

“Pétanque on Hayling... enthusiastically competitive, but always friendly, cold weather or sunshine - all the same, when a bit of fresh air, fun and camaraderie dictate!” - Avy

“Where else can you enjoy competition and fun outdoors all year round (weather permitting) with great friendly company rounded off with a drink in the club room afterwards???” - Ray H

“A great time, friendly and welcoming atmosphere from everyone.” - Liz

“I am so glad that a friend suggested I try Pétanque. It's so absorbing, so frustrating but great fun. We are a very mixed group but everyone gels beautifully.” Anne S

“Friendly rivalry and gentle banter add up to a weekly morning to look forward to throughout the year.” - Eve

*Petanque, la Boule, is a noble game,  
At Seacourt is played on a stony terrain.*

*No need to go as fast as Lorraine!*

*The U3A crew will help explain,*

*The intricacies of throw, with one aim,*

*To play with fun and win some fame!" - Chris*

"How often, when on holiday abroad you have stopped and watched groups of people throwing metal balls at a small wooden ball and seen what fun and enjoyment they are getting? You can have the same enjoyment all the year

around if you join our group on Hayling Island on a Tuesday morning." Ray W

**As for me, it's the highlight of my week! The group would welcome a few more members, so if this has whetted your appetite, please get in touch via the website.**



**Nigel Street**

## CYCLING FOR FUN GO TO BRIGHTON!



Richard Swaine writes:

We left Emsworth Station at 0934 and arrived at Brighton an hour later and unloaded the bikes. We cycled down through the town to the promenade, and headed west along a wonderful 'made for cyclists' cycleway.

Through Hove, Lancing and then into the busy Shoreham Port where we stopped for a welcome coffee break in town. Onwards to Worthing – see the pier pic below - and to our lunch stop at 'The Bull' in Goring with excellent food choices. (see below)

The pub was handily placed for Goring station, where we took the train back home. A seven hour day out in perfect conditions where we saw the very best of coastal fun and activities. All well organised by Ray Davies. National Cycle Network Route 2 is a long-distance cycle route which, when complete, will link Dover in Kent with St. Austell in Cornwall via the south coast of England.

At Marine Parade, east of Worthing Pier you follow the route along the coast, taking you past the fantastic Widewater Lagoon in Lancing. A man-made feature, the lagoon is a resting place for a variety of birds including herons, swans and other wildfowl. At Shoreham the route follows 5-miles of minor roads, taking you into the town centre and past a lovely 12th-century church called St Mary de Haura.





## The Benefits of Using Grok for u3a Members

As members of the u3a, you're no strangers to embracing new experiences and lifelong learning. Enter Grok, a remarkable AI tool created by xAI, designed to answer your questions, spark curiosity, and make your daily explorations more engaging. Here's why Grok is a fantastic companion for retired individuals looking to stay connected, informed, and inspired.

### **A Friendly Guide for Your Questions:**

Grok is like having a knowledgeable friend by your side, ready to answer almost any question you have. Curious about the history of your favourite hobby, the science behind a recipe, or tips for planning a garden? Grok provides clear, concise answers tailored to your interests. Whether you're delving into a new subject or revisiting an old passion, Grok makes learning accessible and fun, no matter your tech experience.

### **Stay Connected with the World:**

Keeping up with the world can sometimes feel overwhelming, but Grok simplifies it. Available for free on platforms like grok.com, x.com, or through mobile apps for iOS and Android, Grok lets you explore current events, cultural trends, or even local history at your own pace. Its conversational style feels like chatting with a friend, making it easy to stay curious and informed without needing to navigate complex websites or apps. Spark Creativity and Problem-Solving. Whether you're planning a u3a group activity, writing a memoir, or tackling a crossword puzzle, Grok can offer creative ideas and practical solutions. Need inspiration for a travel itinerary or help understanding a tricky concept? Grok's ability to provide thoughtful suggestions can enhance your projects and hobbies, making your retirement years even more fulfilling.

### **Easy to Use, Even for Tech Novices:**

Grok is designed to be user-friendly, requiring no advanced tech skills. You can access it on your phone, tablet, or computer, and even use voice mode on the Grok mobile apps to ask questions hands-free. It's like having a patient tutor who's always ready to help, whether you're exploring a new topic or troubleshooting a small issue at home.

### **A Tool for Lifelong Learning:**

For u3a members, Grok aligns perfectly with the spirit of staying active and engaged. It's a free resource that empowers you to explore, learn, and connect with the world in a way that suits your lifestyle. From answering practical questions to fuelling your curiosity, Grok is a tool that makes retirement vibrant and enriching.

So, why not give Grok a try? Visit [grok.com](https://grok.com) or download the app to start exploring today.

Your next adventure in learning is just a question away!

### **Chairman's Note**

This article was written by Grok at my request. Personally, I am finding Grok indispensable these days in answering technical questions, helping me with problems on the website, and proofreading text – its ability to write grammatically excellent text is wonderfully useful.

**Tim Mathews - Chairman**

## **What's in it for me? Benefits from being on a committee.**

Our u3a is **run by members for members** and Ems Valley u3a's success is founded on members getting involved in running things as group leaders and/or committee members.

Your committee recently reflected on the benefits of being part of this team, and we'd like to share our thoughts with you. If you've ever considered joining, here's an insight into what it means to us.



**From our Chairman and Webmaster: Tim - Enlightening, Empowering, Collaborative**

"Being on this committee has been enlightening and empowering. I've discovered my abilities to run a website, negotiate, make decisions, and speak confidently in public. Chairing this capable committee is both an honour and enjoyable. The u3a movement is fantastic for socialising and learning, but as an organic association, we need new blood to keep the spirit of Ems Valley u3a alive, especially as retirees step back from leadership roles."



**From Our Vice-Chairman: Rod - Collaboration, Satisfaction, Teamwork**

"Collaborating with a group of like-minded people to work towards a shared goal has been incredibly rewarding."

**From Our Speaker Secretary: Rod - Challenge, Creativity, Organisation**

"I enjoy the challenge of researching and booking speakers to create a varied and interesting programme of events."



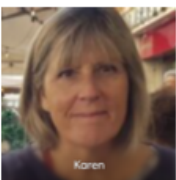
**From Our Business Secretary: Dbee - Purpose, Engagement, Rewarding**

"Being part of the committee has given me a sense of purpose and I have enjoyed being part of the decision making for our group. It keeps my brain active, encourages me to get out of the house, and motivates me to engage with others. It's a rewarding way to be involved in u3a and have some light hearted fun at the same time."



**From Our Treasurer: Hilary - Fulfilment, Connection, Growth**

"I find it fulfilling to work with others to achieve common goals. Joining the committee has allowed me to connect with more members and expand my social interactions, which has been personally enriching. I've gained confidence through the things we've achieved together."



**From Our Beacon Admin: Karen - Insight, Companionship, Participation**

"Being on the committee has given me insight into how our u3a runs, the opportunity to take part in informed decision-making, and the chance to meet new people. It's also a great way to form new friendships and understand the breadth of activities within our u3a as well as have a laugh"



**From our Membership Secretary: Sue - Involved, Rewarding, Enjoyable**

"It is great to be so involved with the organisation of Ems Valley, and from my membership perspective, communicating with prospective members and later seeing them happily settled in and enjoying the groups they have joined - very rewarding. The monthly committee meetings are very chatty and enjoyable."



**From our Minutes Secretary: Liz - Community, Involvement, Contribution**

"Being new to the Emsworth area 3 years ago, joining the committee has made a big difference to me as I have met some lovely people. It's really good to know first hand what's going on in EmsValley u3a and I like the feeling of contributing albeit in a small way."

***PART TWO OF THIS ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY DBEE OUR BUSINESS SECRETARY, WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AND INCLUDE THE REMAINING FOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS and some of their comments!***

## Do you remember – 2 aircraft crashing at Portsmouth within two hours!

This account is through the eyes of an Ambulance drive at that time:

On 15th August 1967, there were two aircraft crashes on the same day in Portsmouth, (I believe they were Dakota's but I am not an expert). **Ed: No, the planes were H.S. 748s** Portsmouth did have its own Airport many years ago and one very wet day an aircraft had just arrived from Jersey and was landing on the grass runway, the ground was so



wet that it could not stop and crashed into an embankment over the back of the Airport and as far as I can remember there were no injuries. Later on that day I was on duty and we got a call to the city Airport where a plane was reported as just crashed. The general feeling amongst the staff was that it was the same plane that had crashed earlier and someone had only just spotted it and reported it, after all there could not be two crashes on one day, could there, Wrong!

**The first crash – top left.**



**The second crash with the plane blocking the Eastern Road - bottom left.**

Anyway it was a 999 call and we had to respond. As we drove up the Eastern Road towards the Airport the traffic seemed to

be at a standstill, that was very strange being so far away from the Airport, but with bells (yes bells) & sirens blaring we overtook them all and then found out the reason for the hold-up. Another aircraft had crashed, but this time it was on the main road completely blocking it, and the only injury was a woman that had a leg injury, it was amazing that it did not collide with any cars, as this was a very busy main road. All the other passengers were understandably somewhat shocked. The crash had caused absolute chaos to the city's traffic, as there were only two ways off Portsea Island, that was the Eastern road, that the plane had blocked, and Portsbridge (The main A3). It was interesting to note that when they tried to remove the plane from the road, they put a steel hawser through both the rear doors of the plane, connected it to a tractor unit and tried to pull the plane back on to the airfield, but all they succeeded in doing was to badly damage the tail section of the plane. It was removed by other means after many hours. **Editor: The reason for the two crashes was deemed to be excessive rainfall falling on the hard clay subsoil of the airport. There were only grass runways and the airport was closed for good about three years later and all flights transferred to Eastleigh Airport.**

## Group Leaders Get Together Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

All group leaders and their number twos were invited to a social gathering by the Committee on Friday. It was a great chance to meet up, discuss and compare. The Chairman welcomed everybody and generously thanked them for their endeavours over the past year. The pictures under taken by Dbee, our business Secretary tell their story.

A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all!



## Sixties/Seventies Music Evening

A New proposal for an informal group meeting usually between May and October to socialise and listen to recorded music. Tracks will be mainly from the 60s and 70s pop music scene with occasional incursions into the late 50s and early 80s. We would probably meet once a month on a Wednesday evening for a couple of hours around 7.00 pm. Those who wish to have a bop, can do so if the mood takes them but tapping feet to the music will be obligatory! You can bring along our own drinks and snacks if you wish. I have made a provisional booking for Wednesday 11th June at the Emsworth Community Centre but need to know what the interest is before confirming the booking.

Please contact **Marguerita Taplin** [margueritaplin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margueritaplin@yahoo.co.uk) or Phone: **01243374105** by Friday 30th to register interest in joining this group.



## The Government Inspector – Chichester.

When the list for Chichester Theatre Summer season was circulated by Maureen, I did not consider the Government Inspector. Then a bowling friend who is not always easily aroused, was enthusing about it having seen it in the first week. He said that he laughed the whole way though so that sounded like 'mine' ....



It is nearly 200 years old, and set in rural Russia. It is political, satirical and has slapstick, and its capacity to amuse and shock us with the behaviour of corrupt officials is totally undiminished! So very apt for Chichester to bring this Gogol play back - right now! To cut my story short, I applied for tickets very late, was amazed to find seats available and paid just £20.00 to sit three rows back but on the side. Yes, I laughed the whole way through, I really enjoyed it, never having seen Gogol's work before. We had a well-dressed windbag mistaken for the dreaded incognito inspector,

and the officials of a provincial town bribe and banquet him in order to turn his attention away from the evils of their administration. But right at the end, the arrival of the real inspector is announced—to the horror of all concerned. The original book caused so much hue and cry in the reactionary press and by officialdom at that time that Gogol left Russia for Rome, where he stayed for six years!

But strange things happened at Chichester that night – the two ladies sitting next to me did not reappear after the interval, and the youngish well dressed man on my other side did not seem to share my mirth. So was it me? **Ed.**

## 80th Anniversary of V E Day – a poem - Lest we forget

As we join in the celebrations on this Anniversary in May,  
let us remember the price that was paid for our freedom  
that we might have this day.

For those of us who still remember, the past 80 years have just  
rolled by and who can wonder when a memory is recalled that a  
tear comes to the eye.

We think of those who gave their lives, our country to defend,  
they fought the fight for our freedom right to the bitter end.  
Let us remember them with pride for they gave all they had to  
give so that you and I and future generations would have the  
right to live.

We think of those who are left with broken minds and bodies,  
now in their Autumn years, we think of the widows, sons, and  
daughters, who today still weep and shed their tears.  
So today whilst we are celebrating let us remember them with  
pride, for it was for our freedom here today  
that they fought and died.

Let all the beacons glow across the land,  
let all the church bells ring and let us with all our hearts and  
voices our National Anthem sing.

Betty Whitcher (Betty is not a member of our u3a, but a long time friend of your Editor)

### Quotation Corner

This month's subject – "THE BODY"

Imprisoned in every fat man a thin one is wildly signalling to be let out. **Cyril Connolly**

All legs leave something to be desired, do they not? That is part of their function and all of their charm. **Alan Bennett**

People don't come in my size until they're old – I used to think people were born with big bones and large frames,  
but apparently these grow when you're about sixty eight and a half. **Maeve Binchy**

I wouldn't change anything but I could do with sharing my bottom and thighs with at least two other people.  
**Christine Hamilton**

If I see something sagging, dragging or bagging, I get it sucked, tucked or plucked **Dolly Parton**

Free your mind and your bottom will follow **Duchess of York**

The body of a young woman is God's greatest achievement..... Of course, he could have built it to last longer but you  
can't have everything. **Neil Simon**

### NOSTALGIA

The winter of 1984/5 was very cold!. The severe weather led to mass unemployment and severe disruptions to shipping on the River Thames, which froze over. Most workers were left without sustenance, and in industrial centres, large soup kitchens were widespread to feed these people.

Numerous skating festivals also were organised to take advantage of the unusually cold and sunny weather, with up to 50,000 people skating on the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park and speed skating races being widely popular and generating money to



be used for relief of the poor, and in some cases to provide them with temporary work as vendors for spectators. Coal supplies dwindled as transporting coal by river was impossible, whilst many recently introduced exotic plants were killed by the cold. Here, on the south coast our Langstone Mill (seen above) looks very frozen and also delerict. Anyone know the lad in the foreground?

After moving to the U.S., a Chinese doctor struggled to find work in a hospital. So, he opened a small clinic with a clever sign out front:

“Treatment for \$20 — If not cured, get \$100 back!”

One day, an American lawyer saw the sign and thought, “What a scam... but hey, easy money!” He walked in confidently.

Lawyer: “Doctor, I’ve lost my sense of taste.”

Doctor: “Nurse, bring medicine from Box No. 22. Three drops in his mouth.”

Lawyer: “Bleh! That’s kerosene!”

Doctor: “Congratulations — your taste is back. That’ll be \$20.”

Annoyed but determined, the lawyer returned a few days later.

Lawyer: “I’ve lost my memory. I can’t remember anything.”

Doctor: “Nurse, Box No. 22 again. Three drops.”

Lawyer: “Wait! That’s kerosene again!”

Doctor: “Wonderful — your memory’s back! That’ll be \$20.”

Now thoroughly frustrated, the lawyer made one last attempt to win.

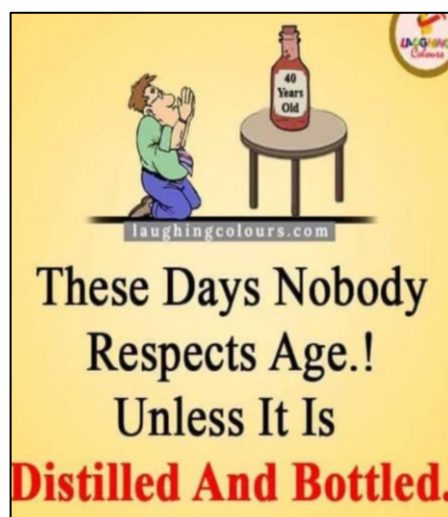
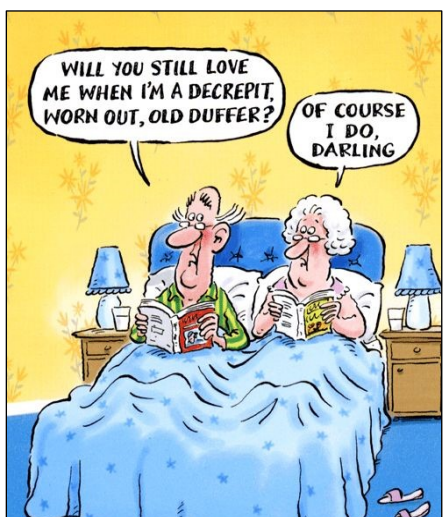
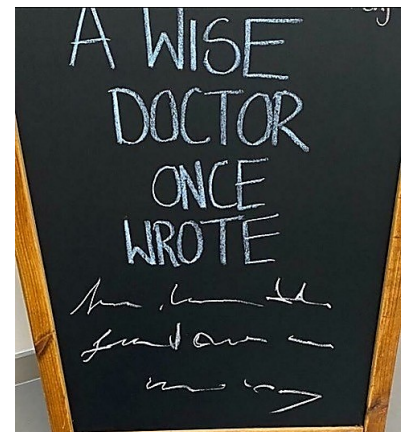
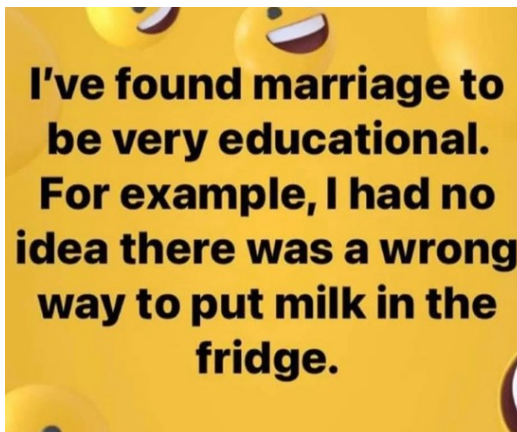
Lawyer: “My eyesight is failing. I can’t see a thing!”

Doctor: “I’m sorry. I don’t have a cure for that. Here’s your \$100.”

The doctor handed him a \$20 bill.

Lawyer (squinting): “Hey, wait a minute... this is just \$20!”

Doctor: “Fantastic! Your eyesight is restored. That’ll be \$20.”



**All contributions for the next newsletter please to:  
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