



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

**We learn this month of the death of Eric Midwinter**, He one of the visionary co-founders of our u3a movement in the UK. Eric, alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young, established u3a in this country in 1982 with the belief that later life should be a time of continued learning, connection, and contribution. (Now called Live, laugh, learn!) Born in 1932, he was 93, and lived with his wife Margaret in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.



Eric's commitment to challenging all the negative stereotypes of ageing, and to creating spaces for older adults to share skills, knowledge, and friendship, has shaped the lives of hundreds of thousands of u3a members over the past four decades. To many, Eric was seen as the face of our movement. He was instrumental in promoting our concept to the wider world and, in his later life, continued to be an advocate for what u3a could achieve.

You would find it difficult to read an edition of our News and Views magazine without it containing a worthy article from Eric! Eric's vision has flourished over the years and we know that his legacy will continue to inspire new generations to embrace lifelong learning and the comradery that we all now enjoy.

He was a grammar school boy from Sale, Cheshire and he won a half day holiday for his fellow pupils when he became the school's first to go to Cambridge University. His early and lifetime addictions included Manchester United football and Lancashire cricket.

He was later awarded the OBE and during a distinguished career he has been, in no particular order, a social historian and policy-maker, a professor of Education at Exeter University, and, as we well know, the co-founder of the University of the Third Age. From 1980 to 1991, Eric was also Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, besides being head of the Public Affairs Unit at the National Consumers Council. From 1977 to 1996, he was Chair of the London Regional Passengers Committee, as well as Chair of the Health and Social Welfare Board of the Open University.

I was totally unaware of another of his interests - Eric was President of The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians between 1997 and 2004. That association comment: "It was to cricket's benefit that Eric turned his mind and pen to our sport and its wider contexts, and the Cricket Society's great fortune was that Eric worked with us, notably by contributing seemingly endless streams of articles to successive journal editors as well as speaking from time to time at member meetings. Eric and our former Chair David Allsop were also both keen members of The Savage Club - an irreverential gentlemen's club dating from the nineteenth century – and until health issues took their toll, they hosted cheese and red wine lunches at which cricket was invariably to the fore!"

Eric has written over 50 books on education, social reform, consumer advocacy, British comedy, literary history, football and cricket. Amazingly, we in u3a were only aware of a small part of this man's legacy and life. **Editor.**

**Coach Trip with Ems Valley U3A Garden Group  
KNOLL GARDENS, WIMBORNE  
AND  
COMPTON ACRES, POOLE**



on

Tuesday, October 14th 2025

Travel is by Westrings Coaches leaving Emsworth at 9.00am and returning at approximately 5.30pm

Since 1994 internationally acclaimed gardener Neil Lucas and his team have created a wonderful naturalistic garden at Knoll Gardens, a haven for both people and wildlife. Seamlessly blending graceful grasses, adding drama with striking perennials and form and structure with mature trees and shrubs, the gardens offer a wealth of interest and diverse habitat throughout the seasons.

In contrast Compton Acres is made up of five gardens: Italian, Wooded, Rock and Water, Japanese and Heather. (see below)

I am reliably informed that the cafe is award winning too and that is where we plan to have lunch!

**The cost will be £35.50 based on a minimum of 40 people.**

Please email me if you would like to come. Payment is required by 7th September. (It may be possible to register after that time depending on numbers)

[Dianamf1223@gmail.com](mailto:Dianamf1223@gmail.com)

**Diana Faithfull**



## **u3acommunities.org**

A few days ago, I was surfing around for something or other to do with the u3a movement when I came across a website called **u3acommunities.org**, with the strapline Putting the University back into u3a. Digging further, I found a number of groups that they run - all totally free of charge - and it piqued my interest. These groups range from Art History to Science & Technology. On registering with them, you also indicate the groups that interest you. My choices were Computing, History and Science & Technology, most of which were at times that did not clash with my existing u3a commitments.

All groups have talks by impressive speakers, are run online via Zoom and are totally independent of the Third Age Trust. I just wanted to bring this to the attention of your readers, our members.

**Tim Mathews**

## An interview with a difference – Colin Ottewell

**Editor:** Readers will be used to the occasional interview I include to allow us to discover more about one of our interesting members! I happened upon Val Ottewell on my daily walk recently and knowing that I had



“interviewed” her when she was our busy and most efficient Business Secretary some years back, I said that I would like to do the same with Colin, her Husband. Colin leads our PLAYREADING TWO group, and I cannot forget the ‘*Il FORNICAZIONE – A classic operatic masterpiece*’ that his group entertained us with at the AGM in May 2022! (See pic on left, Colin is extreme left). I knew that Colin was a busy man, so, imagine my slight surprise when he immediately responded! But it didn’t result in a normal interview – however I think you will enjoy the subsequent mini life resumé - I did!

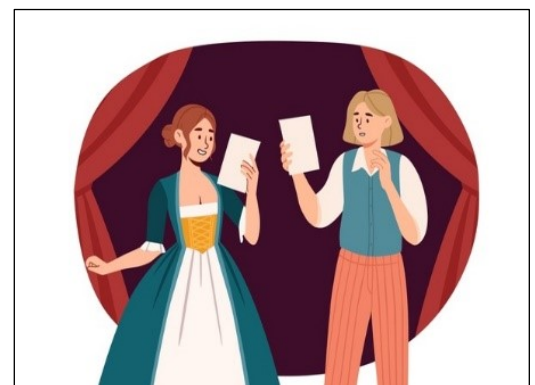
*“Val and I both joined Ems Valley U3A soon after we moved to Emsworth in 2010. Since then Val has been far more active than me - serving on the committee and involved in*

several groups including Intermediate French who meet in our house every fortnight, and where I help out serving the half time coffee. People have asked why I haven't joined in with that group, but as we've spent so many holidays luxuriating in the French Autoroute system French now seems second nature to me - after all, if 60% of English is already French this surely means that, even if we were to speak to them in English, they'd still understand most of what we say. As for my lurking in the background, you're probably right. I was hoping nobody would notice, but apparently it's hard to hide.

I don't really expect all those lucky people with good hearing to understand this at all, and I was trying so hard to respond to your questions without finding myself yet again on the hearing aid soap box, but suffice it to say we're all different and hearing aids for me have never quite lived up to the promise on the box. Consequently, I prefer where possible to avoid noisy situations where I'm unable to work out what friends are saying - and this includes U3A presentations (like your very much loved Brick Business).

"All the world's a stage". Long, long ago, Val and I were both involved in acting, in fact that's how we first met - and when once you've done it, you never forget. So it was natural for us both to be attracted to the idea of a Play Reading Group - and there already was one, Group 1 in the care of Mary Mumby, but it was full. Hence the creation of our Group 2.

I think we've been running for at least 10 years, meeting once a month on the second Tuesday at 2pm in our front room. Our membership has been remarkably stable and regular, so we must be doing something right. Play reading is not ideal as it prevents any proper understanding of the play or time to get into character - but we enjoy it anyway. We (I) keep away from anything too serious and read mainly thrillers and comedy, and murder does seem to crop up quite a lot. Our next reading may be "The House by the Lake" which sounds suitably spooky, or "Curtain Up on Murder". Pantomimes have been such an important part of my life that everything now seems part of the script - and they can be such fun can't they? Oh yes they can!

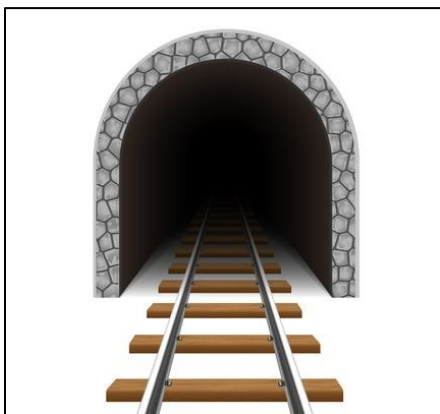
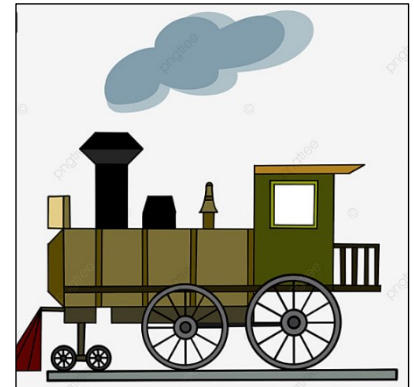


I don't expect you to believe this but 4 times so far I've been asked to play Widow Twanky (but only the once as King Rat). Every single year, for the past many decades, our family and close friends pop off to The Chipping Norton Panto - widely recognised as still the best there is - this year it's Beauty and the Beast and you'll find us in rows D and E. (Thanks to Mr Hitler I have distant memories of farm life in Chipping Norton, but that's quite another story). I suppose that was also the beginning of our fascination for tunnels.

**ED. I knew that Colin's email address was 'tunneler23' – I had asked him why?**

Like so many things in life, it all started with a game. During the war there was a railway line running through Chipping Norton and ending up at Kingham Junction - the little steam train I remember was affectionally known as The Chippy Dick. But, in the 60's, a Mr Beeching came along and everything closed, including the use of 'The Tunnel' - and other tunnels along the line. Now, disused tunnels are intensely dark, echoey places where only the very brave and very stupid dare to venture. And, oh yes, we were those people!

We frequently disguised ourselves as monsters in order to jump out on and chase our screaming children if they'd dared to venture by torchlight into our silent preserve. So many things we did in those happy, crazy days that are probably not even legal today - but at least we did them! What a tragedy that modern times have put a stop to all that.

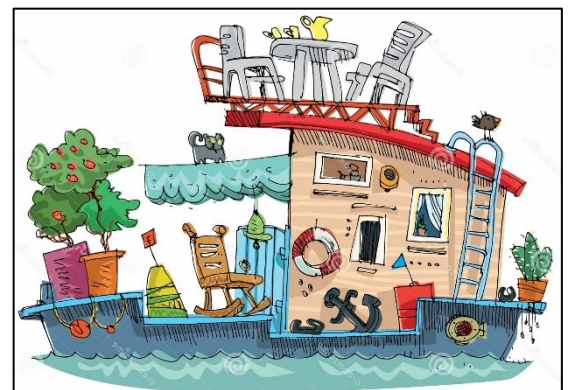


My pal and I formed the CTA, the Cotswold Tunnelers Association. The Chippy tunnel was nearly a mile long, and to qualify for membership of the CTA you had to walk the full length. It wasn't easy. Apart from the darkness there was the 'putresing sludge' created by time and leaky brickwork, hence the invention of the wellington boot. On completion you'd be installed as 'brother or sister' and handed your membership certificate. This ritual always took place afterwards in the local pub. At it's peak I remember we had as many as six members, nearly all of whom then emigrated to places like Australia rather than go through the annual commemoration ceremony.

Although I was born in Bedhampton (the house is still there, number 12 Park Lane, and maybe we could organise a coach party if enough are interested) my family were very much from Croydon, which was such a good place to grow up in those days.

Val and I lived in South Croydon for many years until our two daughters had grown up and moved onwards and upwards. And so we began to think about moving, but where to go?

Because boats have always been a huge part of our lives together - due mainly to poverty we began married life with 4 years on a houseboat on the Thames (believe me, so many, many stories there) - and since then we've always had some sort of boat - at the time in question it was a 9 metre Catalac on Chichester Harbour. She was called "Chat Eau Neuf" from, you guessed it, Cat Water Nine. Because of that we knew something of the Emsworth area, and that's how we come to be here now.



Apart from all the above, I come from many generations of 'Christian' families, and made a personal commitment when I was aged 14 in a Crusader class. Many ups and downs since then but 32 years ago I was licensed to lead worship and preach in Southwark Cathedral as a Lay Reader. This is a non-ordained minister in the good old CofE. Some years later I became employed by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen - now known simply as the Fishermen's Mission. I was tempted by the mix of Boats and God which go so well together, and I've never earned less or had so much reward elsewhere in fellowship and satisfaction.

When we arrived in Emsworth I had been retired for 8 years and was also out of a job as a qualified Lay Reader so the hunt was on. Our Parish Church, St James', seemed fully staffed so we looked further afield, eventually ending

up at St Mary's ancient church in Chidham. On our first Sunday in the congregation the then Vicar introduced himself and asked where we were from. We told him, Croydon. He said he knew Croydon, and in fact went to school there. Amazingly it was the very school I had attended 4 years later. Also, their Lay Reader was about to move away, so when I offered I was viewed as 'an answer to prayer'. That was in 2010, and since then I've survived three interregnums. Our new vicar starts in September as vicar of both Chidham and Funtington parishes."

## A HUGE THANK YOU!



**Members of the Art Appreciation Group raised a toast of thanks to group leaders Catherine Davis and Susan Resouly who are retiring from their roles having led the group for 10 years. Over the years they have "navigated" the group through the World of Art covering a diverse variety of topics including "Women Artists", "Sculpture", "Sport in Art " and "African Art". They have arranged visits to exhibitions, galleries and artists' workshops as well as exploring the different techniques and materials used to create art throughout the ages . The group were unanimous in thanking Catherine and Susan for increasing their knowledge of art and thereby learning to appreciate aspects outside their perceived comfort zones.**

**Although their expert leadership shoes will be difficult to fill, the group plan to continue and would welcome any new members. The group meets on the 4th Friday of every month between 10 and 12 in the Community Centre.**

**SARAH LIPSCOMBE**

## 'The Choir', or a good reason to join a choir?

Our theatre group was well represented at the Minerva Theatre on Monday 11th August. Our thanks to Maureen Falloon for her hard work which facilitates discounted tickets! The Choir is a new play by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, a British writer whose play 'Behzti' I read, was cancelled by the Birmingham Rep after protests against the play turned violent and alleged death threats forced Bhatti to go into hiding! So I half expected fireworks... But I knew that choir members always wax lyrical about the benefits they receive from their escape to the session each week. (Right behind me sat Maggie and her fellow members of "A Choired Taste" from Horndean!)

We started with a dramatic rendering of a Queen hit by James Gillan, the camp singer who has done it all before and keeps telling us so! Then the chaos started with the dotty Sheila who is an endearing fantasist – and a thief! She also flits about with roller skates and her bike on stage! Each of the seven members of the choir reveal their egos, insecurities and jealousies in



turn. It came thick and fast and the first half left us slightly bemused.

However the second half was more enjoyable and we came to perhaps understand a little, the increasingly interesting group of people while their wheels were still quite regularly threatening to fall off! The singing? Excellent both the very very bad stuff and the exceptionally good. It was all in the mix. Ken the recently widowed old boy is brilliant, and the glamorous Anna is a star with a very troubled background that she almost keeps hidden! But I could not help liking the foul mouthed Joy, cast to represent the larger community, and who says it as it is but in the crudest terms. (did that lady who departed after the first half take exception?)

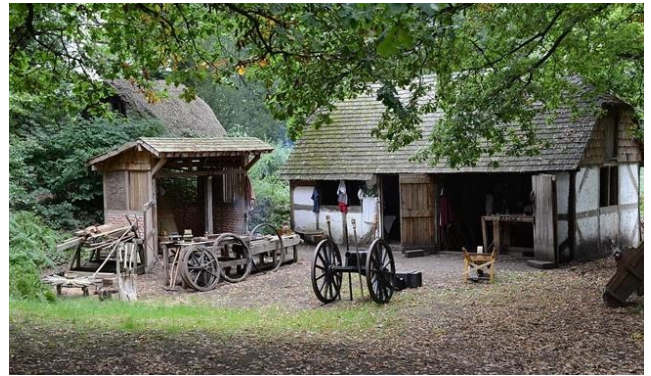
Poor choir leader Morgan seizes their chance as a spot on 'The One Show' is offered, but goes through absolute hell the week before. Then we hear Alex Jones, the BBC Welsh presenter, giving the introduction to create the setting. Of course it all turns out OK at the end and the final scene is spectacular. But I wonder how our members rated it?

I suspect that you could elicit two, three, four and five stars depending on who you approached! **Editor**

## The 1642 Living History Village

On Saturday 2nd August the Ems Valley U3A had a local history trip to Little Woodham, a small hamlet of timber framed, wattle and daub houses set in the year 1642. The hamlet is set amidst a housing estate in the Alver Valley, Gosport which is a most surprising location and next to a very nice garden centre. Many of us thought our Satnavs had led us astray!

The site is run by the Gosport Living History Society and the residents of the village are all volunteers which is why the site is only open weekends and bank holidays from April to October.



On the day we visited there was a blacksmith, woodturner, scribe and innkeeper all dressed in period costume and full of information. The lady in the Inn was making a pie with a reusable pastry case which didn't sound too appealing. All the volunteers were extremely chatty especially the scribe who showed how the paper and inks were made and although it sounds obvious the fact that the word penknife was exactly what it says ie a knife for making pens. The scribe also mentioned how difficult it was to send messages to other regions due to local spellings and dialects.

The blacksmith was making hooks and talking about the different colours the metal had to glow for ease of use and how every piece of metal was recycled. The woodturner had a very Heath Robinson contraption for turning out bowls etc.

All in all it was a very enjoyable afternoon rounded off with tea and cake at the garden centre. Next door to Little Woodham is Alver Valley Country Park, The Wildgrounds which

looked lovely for a walk and that day they had spotted kingfishers and owls.



**Annette Southwell**

**Editor: I was quite surprised by this report, in spite of being a local all my life, I had never heard of Little Woodham!** So I made contact, yes, because of Annette's report, and Mistress Eve immediately came back to me with: "It is the year of our Lord 1642, and I am Mistress Eve situated in the hamlet of Rowner in the grounds of Grange Farm, farmed by Master Stares. Just down the road is the church of St Mary the Virgin, the Rector is James Searle. Times were hard for me, I make baskets in the spring of the year, from willow taken from the wetlands



locally. In the summer of the year I make buttons to sell to traders who pass through and in the autumn of the year I sell myself at the hiring fayre in Titchfield.

Last year I was lucky enough to be bought by the Master of Titchfield Grammar School to serve in his house during the winter months, returning to Rowner in the spring the following year. **King Charles is on the throne and unrest is apparent**, with Lord Goring as Governor of Portsmouth. But this could be idle gossip. "

## **A PROPER SUMMER GARDEN TEA!**

The Garden Group were so fortunate to be able to enjoy our Summer get together in the charming lodge house of the Green Door Centre in Bosham (originally Hamblin Hall). The high temperature made it unappealing to spend very long in the lovely surroundings, but with the doors and windows open and fans running it was comfortable indoors. 35 of us sat down at prettily decorated tables to have our sandwiches, home made cakes and mini pavlovas, thanks to a joint effort of the committee and friends. A cleverly devised, garden oriented quiz was a welcome challenge in between lots of chat and cups of tea!

Altogether it was agreed it was a fun and memorable afternoon amongst gardening friends.

**Diana Faithfull**



**Editor The heading to this article was mine – prompted by the fare I noticed that Garden members produce – see below!:**



## Wine Appreciation One – August Tasting

At our August meeting on Tuesday 19th, the Wine Appreciation One group explored two iconic French wines, both sourced from Asda's "Extra Special" range, with some lively discussion and mixed reactions around the table.

We began with the Pouilly Fumé, a classic Sauvignon Blanc from the eastern Loire, priced at £14.97. Pouilly-sur-Loire lies just across the river from Sancerre, and the wine is often described as flinty, slightly smoky, and with distinctive mineral notes. This example did not disappoint. The group agreed it was elegant and would pair beautifully with fish, especially when served with a sauce. It was generally well-received and appreciated as a fine example of its style.

We then turned to the Châteauneuf-du-Pape, produced under the name of Auguste Bessac (£16.49). As was

explained, Auguste Bessac is a négociant rather than a winemaker tied to a single estate. In France, a négociant may own vineyards, buy grapes, or even blend and bottle wines from other producers under their own label. This example from the southern Rhône divided opinion: some felt it was a little too light for such a famous appellation, while others enjoyed its delicacy and soft tannins. Personally, I found it to be elegant and easy to drink, if not as powerful as some might expect.

We concluded with a reminder that while Châteauneuf-du-Pape is one of France's most prestigious wines, truly top examples can cost well over £100 a bottle – a little beyond our budget!



Nonetheless, both wines gave us plenty to enjoy and discuss, and made for a most convivial tasting. **Alan Borrow**

## THE EMSWORTH SHOW 2025

Would members please send me any pics of the Emsworth Show this year especially if they include shots of our members! Editor

## Real Ale Appreciation Group

Our group met for a visit to Southsea at the end of July. Steve, Tim and I decided to lunch at the Brewhouse & Kitchen in Southsea first. We were grateful to get a lift over there from Andrea. There was a good selection of Ales on offer with several of them brewed on the premises. I can certainly recommend the Steak Frites meal which Tim and I opted for, whilst Steve went for a more substantial choice off the Main menu. There was need for a further couple of halves to go with the food. Whilst eating we got talking with the Head Brewer and he made us aware of the Brewery Experience Days that they offer (Breakfast, Brewing, Lunch and Tasting (plus more tasting) with the option to take home your own keg at the end of the day). It certainly sounded a good day out and an option for our group in the colder winter months. Brewing Days are normally offered on Fridays and Saturdays but with a big enough group and sufficient notice it could be arranged for a Tuesday (our usual meeting day). Getting on for 1.30 it was time to move on to the Barley Mow and meet the rest of the group. Just around the corner, the Barley Mow is used by the CAMRA association for their monthly meetings so we knew we were on to a good pub. The pub is what I would call a 'proper traditional local' offering a good range of Ales and a knowledgeable landlord. Joined by others in the group, including a 'birthday boy' we proceeded to put the world to rights (with a ban on politics) whilst enjoying the range of beers. The mild was enjoyed by many as it's quite rare to find such in pubs nowadays. In the rear was a lovely Courtyard Garden with unexploded World War 2 bomb! The



lounge features a free CD Jukebox and the Public Bar has 2 darts boards, a Pool table and Bar Billiards (not often seen in pubs nowadays). The final pub did not open until 4pm but we were enjoying The company and atmosphere so much we did not move on until 4.30. So on to the Hole in the Wall, again a traditional local serving a constantly changing selection of cask-conditioned real ales. It even has a retro Sweet Shop set up and run by the landlord's children. Finally, we headed up to the station and the journey home after a particularly enjoyable afternoon. **Next meeting: Havant**

Anyone wishing to join the group please contact Les or Steve via the U3A website

[https://emsvally.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_groups/real-ale-appreciation](https://emsvally.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/real-ale-appreciation)



Les Brokenshire

## CAMEO25

is a social group to enable members to make friends and have fun. We meet at 10am on first Tuesday of the month. (10.00 – 12.00 in Mountford 2 at the Community Centre). Do bring an Ems Valley u3a friend along with you! The meeting's topic on 2<sup>nd</sup> September is "HOBBIES". Please be prepared to talk for 5 – 10 minutes on your particular hobbies. Thanks to all of you who attended last month's meeting – it was a great success. Tea/coffee & biscuits available to buy. I look forward to seeing you.

Eileen Snow. (eileensnow@icloud.com)

## Travellers' Tales – Sharing Journeys Near and Far

The Travellers' Tales group continues to go from strength to strength, offering members the chance to journey across the globe without ever leaving Emsworth!

We meet six times a year during the winter months – October, November, January, February, March and April –



when the shorter days are perfect for armchair travel. Each session features two presentations from our own members, recounting trips both abroad and within the UK. These accounts are always accompanied by photographs, usually in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, which bring the destinations vividly to life.

What makes Travellers' Tales so enjoyable is the honesty of the stories shared. Members highlight not only the pleasures and discoveries of their journeys, but also the occasional frustrations, surprises, or practical challenges along the way. This balance gives a realistic and useful insight into travel – whether it's the beauty of a hidden village, the joy of meeting local people, or the practicalities of coping with delayed trains, lost luggage or unexpected weather!

Each meeting sparks lively discussion, with tips, recommendations, and even a few warnings that help us all to become better, more informed travellers. Above all, the group offers warmth, laughter, and a sense of shared curiosity about the world around us.

If you enjoy travel – whether you roam widely or prefer to explore closer to home – Travellers' Tales is a welcoming group where your experiences will be valued and your stories appreciated. We have room for more members! For the coming season starting in October, we still need a few more offers of presentations. Whether you are currently a member of this group or not, why not dust down those photographs and become a "holiday presenter" for an evening!

**John Kieran and Alan Borrow.**

## Our Craft group get the PEBBLES!

As you probably remember we seem to be the only group who have a meeting in August. This month we all tried our hand at 'Pebble Pictures' using small pebbles, and pieces of drift wood as well as pen work to create some lovely ideas. It was such a success that we will be doing some more in September. Please find attached our efforts.

**Angela Blunden**

**Editor:** I remember standing on a west Wales beach where all of the pebbles seemed small, perfectly formed and with delightful different hues. I could not resist picking up a few and putting them in my pocket. (probably illegally!). Sometime later I made them into a picture of a bird scene which I had seen previously in a shop.

Now it appears that our craft interest group are being far more enterprising with their ideas for pebble pictures! Thank you Angela!

**See lovely pics below!**



## Your chance to join a day out with a difference!

**Day Trippers invite you to visit Charleston Farmhouse and Berwick Church – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October.**

Charleston was the modernist home and studio of the painters Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant and a gathering point for some of the 20th century's most radical artists, writers and thinkers known collectively as the Bloomsbury group. It is where they came together to imagine society differently. Every inch of the interior of the farmhouse was transformed by the artists into a unique "living work of art", and together with the magical walled garden, we are invited to explore the legacy of the group's radical art, literature, and experimental thinking.

The Farmhouse is a home which has been preserved as it was when the artists lived and worked there, offering a unique insight into their creative lives. The rooms on show form a complete example of the decorative art of the Bloomsbury artists: murals, painted furniture, ceramics, objects from the Omega Workshops, paintings and textiles. The collection includes work by Auguste Renoir, Picasso, Derain, Matthew Smith, Sickert, Stephen Tomlin and Eugène Delacroix. Each room in the house has a steward to describe the room and answer your questions. Two restored barns are home to The Threshing Barn café and The Hay Barn. The Outer Studio at Charleston hosts a permanent display of Bell and Grant's Famous Women Dinner Service, and there is also a shop selling Bloomsbury-inspired art, homeware fabrics, fashion, books and stationery.

**We plan to travel by car, and those willing to drive may wish to offer others a lift (see Steve Groban)**

**Cost per person is £37.00 which includes the house visit and admissions to the ongoing exhibitions and the guided tour at Berwick Church. There are 20 places available on a first come, first served basis. Sign up and payment deadline is Monday, 15 September!!**

CHARLESTON Firle, East Sussex, BN8 6LL. The Berwick Inn BN26 6SZ. Berwick Church BN266SZ

The visit starts at 11.00am (on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October) at the Farmhouse. It is about 90 minutes drive from Emsworth, and after finishing our visit at Charleston, we lunch at The Berwick Inn, BN26 6SZ. (not included in price). Following lunch we visit Berwick Church St Michael & All Angels, BN26 6SR where we will have a guided tour of the famous murals. (see pic bottom right) <https://www.berwickchurch.org.uk/page/bloomsbury-in-berwick>. St Michael and All Angels is a Grade 1 listed building. Although it may well have Saxon or Norman origins, it was heavily restored in 1856 to designs by local Victorian architect Henry Woodyer. The 20th Century Bloomsbury Murals attract about 10,000 visitors each year.

**Please guarantee your place by sending £37.00 to Mr S Gorban Sort Code 40-45-22 Account 11658476, by 15th September.**

We can arrive early and enjoy a coffee or tea in the Cafe before our group visit begins.



Some History: The story of Charleston begins in 1916, when the painters Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant moved here from London, along with Duncan's lover David Garnett, and Vanessa's two young sons, Julian and Quentin. Vanessa was married to Clive Bell, at least in name, and although he visited frequently, he kept his permanent lodgings in London. Vanessa's sister, the writer Virginia Woolf, was staying near Charleston with her husband Leonard Woolf when they discovered the house and saw its potential. On her recommendation, Vanessa secured a short lease on the 16th century house. She also arranged for a local farmer to employ Duncan and David as farm labourers.

That same year, conscription had been introduced, which forced men under the age of 40 to join the armed forces. Duncan and David were forced to find alternative roles for themselves in the war effort – such as farm work – or risk being enlisted or sent to prison. Many of their friends, and members of the Bloomsbury group shared this anti-war stance, and many were Conscientious Objectors – they objected to the war and they didn't think that the government should make people fight. Charleston soon became a gathering point for the Bloomsbury group – a collection of friends that included artists, writers, biographers, art historians and economists. It is where they came together to imagine society differently in a place where art and experimental thinking were at the centre of everyday life. After the First World War ended in 1918, these Charleston's residents resumed their lives in London and Europe. For the next 20 years, the family continued to rent the house and would spend their summers here with an array of friends and visitors. At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Vanessa and Duncan once again packed up their things and returned to live at Charleston, this time with Vanessa's husband Clive joining them. After Duncan Grant's death in 1978, The Charleston Trust charity was set up to restore and maintain Charleston. The house and garden has been open to visitors since 1986.

## A 'PASTE' of CHICHESTER HISTORY or perhaps just "A potted history"

A large group of Day Trippers took advantage of the current Shippams exhibition at the Novium museum followed by lunch at Lemon Grass. It was around 1750 that the Shippam family began trading as wholesale provision



merchants sourcing foods from the West country to sell in Chichester. From humble beginnings the company grew as other members of the family began working in the trade producing canned galantines, pies, pates, whole pheasants



and chickens, ox tongues, soups and later introducing the potted meats and fish pastes for which they were to become nationally famous and indeed, awarded the Royal Warrant on multiple occasions.

community at its core. At the factory entrance a clock with a hanging wishbone, which was often used as a symbol for Shippams, gave the company a strong visible presence in Chichester.

Despite becoming a national brand Shippams always kept the local

In 2001 Shippams sold to their largest competitor, Princes, and the iconic East Walls factory closed. All that remains is the facade, wishbone clock and people's lasting memories of the company. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a convivial lunch at the Lemon Grass Thai restaurant. Thanks to Steve and Simon for all of the organisation.

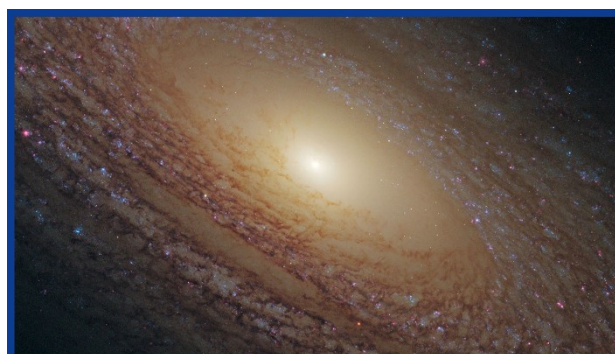


**GILL SKIDMORE**

## How is light is used to investigate objects in the night sky

STEM meet on Thursday 4th September at 2.00pm in St James Parish Hall, their usual venue, to find out the answer to this question. STEM had had an excellent talk from Brian Lynch recently when he explained the the nature of light and colour in a very understandable way for those with no technical background.

Geoff Whalley now invites you to Part 2 of his talk, when Brian will explain some of the ways that light is used to



investigate objects in the night sky - e.g. what stars are made of, how we know that the universe is expanding, why we think that dark matter exists. No maths involved, just a basic overview of some of the techniques used. Geoff says that **"All members of Ems Valley U3a are welcome to join us!"**

The illustration shows an amazing image from the NASA Hubble space telescope, a majestic disk of stars and dust lanes in a spiral galaxy. A bright cusp of starlight marks the galaxy's center. Spiraling outward are dust lanes that are silhouetted

against the population of whitish middle-aged stars. Much younger blue stars trace the spiral arms. This galaxy lies 46 million light-years away in the constellation of Ursa Major (The Great Bear).

## Quotation Corner: This months subject – BORES!

What's wrong with being a boring kind of guy? **George Bush**

(Of Antony Eden) He was not only a bore; he bored for England **Malcolm Muggeridge**

Dylan talked copiously, then stopped. 'Somebody's boring me' he said. 'I think it's me' **Dylan Thomas**

A bore is a man who, when you ask him how he is, he tells you. **Bert Leston Taylor**

"Am I boring you?" "No, you're boring everyone." **Anon**

A bore is a fellow who opens his mouth and puts his feats in it. **Henry Ford**

"In England, people actually try to be brilliant at breakfast. That is so dreadful of them! Only dull people are brilliant at breakfast." **Oscar Wilde**

"Two wives despaired of him,' he said. 'When he got engaged to Sylvia, she made it a condition that he should take the cure at Zurich. And it worked. He came back in three months a different man. And he hasn't touched a drop since, even though Sylvia walked out on him.' 'Why did she do that?' Well, poor Charlie got rather a bore when he stopped drinking. But that's not really the point of the story." **Evelyn Waugh, Brideshead Revisited.**

## The Humour section this month is devoted to "PLAY READING"!

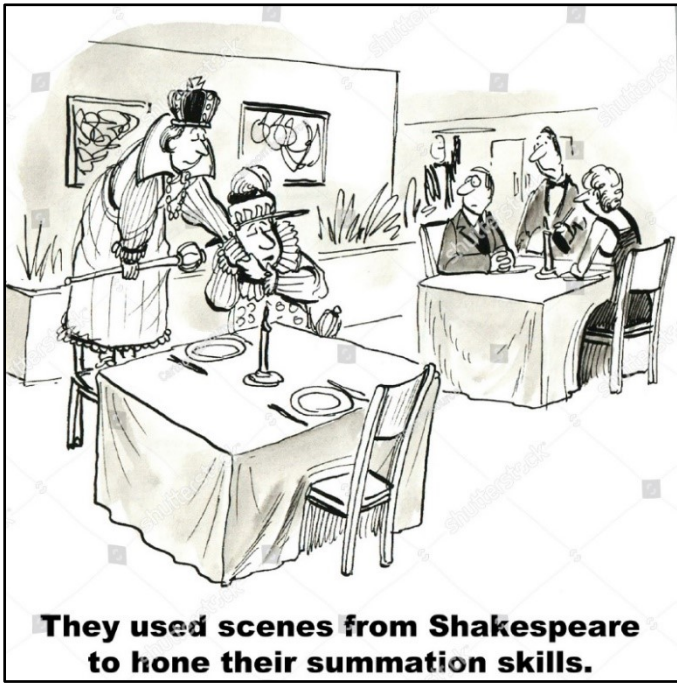


**We attempt accents and experiments - a drum to simulate the stampeding rhinoceroses, building up the volume until members had to shout. Some directors arrange the seating to ramp up the drama too. When we read *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* we had Brick and Maggie, who spend much of the play sparring, sitting opposite each other.....**

## REARRANGING MY BOOKSHELVES



TOM GAULD



They used scenes from Shakespeare to hone their summation skills.



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING, LORRAINE. I AM GLAD HE'S PAPER TRAINED. I JUST PREFER HE NOT DO IT WHILE I'M READING IT.

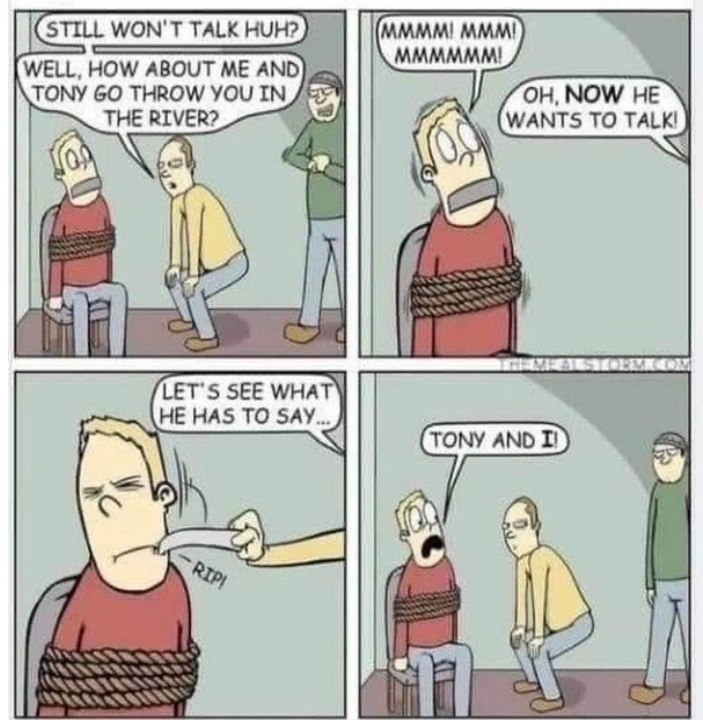


CX922458

CARTOONSTOCK  
A CARTOON COLLECTIONS COMPANY

WELL, THERE GOES MY UNREAD SUMMER READING LIST, FLYING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER.

© 2013  
SKEELY  
8-17  
SKEELY  
BUMP.COM



- Quiet, please! I'm reading between the lines.

MAX 0/19



*Four Ems Valley members decide to go clubbing late on Friday night. One takes to his Playreading part instead, one is tired after driving from Warwick, all four really don't have the right attire to wear and none can agree on the time of the last 700 bus home...*

*Another great loss for  
ASTORIA.*

**Contributions for the next newsletter please to the editor:  
alanborrow1@gmail.com**