



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Continuation of interview with Les and Andrea Brokenshire

The first part of this interview appeared in the October issue – we get to know more about committee members, Les and Andrea Brokenshire....

Ed: you told us about your working career in the last edition Les, What about Andrea?

Les: Andrea's background is finance, beginning with Nat West bank, pre children. When the children were at school, she qualified as a financial planner, giving investment and pension advice.

Ed: What do you two do in life when u3a is not the subject?

Les: Andrea and I love to travel and we have what we call our 'Happy Place' in Kassiope in Corfu where we return almost every year. Our children have grown up with our friends' children and we know many of the locals. The pic below was taken there. We also adventure to other European destinations with friends. My niece lives in Spain and we try to get out there most years.



Last year I took up bowls playing at the Emsworth Bowling Club and they are also a very sociable group. I also enjoy reading, walking, DIY and messing around on the Internet.

Andrea also volunteers with Citizens Advice and is involved with the Emsworth Baptist Church, where we have our monthly meetings. She is delighted by the number of coffee shop options in the area – many places to meet

with friends for a catch up. Family is important to us. It is rare that fortnight passes by without seeing one member or another.

Ed: What interest groups are you members of? I know of one in which you have a fairly high profile?

Les: Andrea and I enjoy Steve & Simon's Day Trippers group and have had enjoyable trips to many places, including Brooklands Museum, Goodwood House, Planetarium, Guildford, Vineyards and Canal Boating. Of course there's always a good restaurant to finish with. I belong to the STEM group and enjoy talks on science subjects. It would be wrong for me to ignore our Wine Group 5 which is a highly sociable group, and finally my favourite, The Real Ale Appreciation group, which I set up with Steve Joy, takes us to many interesting pubs all accessible via public transport.

Ed: We always end the interview with you being cast away to a desert island with the Bible, the complete works of Shakespeare and a great big compendium of the workings of Ems valley u3a coupled with BEACON! . You are allowed to request one other thing, what will that be?

Les: I'd rather have copy of Lord of the Rings than Shakespeare and my one other thing would be five years, free, next day deliveries from Amazon. **Andrea would like a computer for all those shopping orders!**

William Saywell's pics below - Left to right clockwise:

Sparrowhawk, Wheatear, Black tailed Godwit, Glossy Ibis, Martin, Shelducks in flight.

Ed: I saw these lovely photos on facebook and asked William to share them with the Newsletter!



Attendance at Monthly guest speaker meetings

Our Committee put a lot of work, effort and expense into arranging our Monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month and yet only about a sixth of our membership attend. The meeting starts at 2.00pm at the new Baptist Church where we enjoy a luxurious setting, a guest speaker, a very social tea break followed by a secondary speaker, generally appertaining to something of more local interest. Come on you other five sixths – come and see what you are missing! Your Editor appeals!

Are you a WOODWIND player?

Are you a woodwind player with an instrument that needs some company? If so, please read on....

I'd like to put together a small wind ensemble. Music for clarinet, flute, bassoon, oboe, saxophone (alto and tenor) is available – ranging from classical to jazz. (I'd be on bass clarinet myself). A plan would be to get together weekly for say a couple of hours – with some music playing for an hour and a half followed by tea/coffee/whatever. I've done this before in Sydney (the Sydney Windjammers) Oxford (Pipework) and Dunedin (Harbour Tones) and am now living in Emsworth.

There are first, second and third parts available (third part easier than first) so if you have dust on your instrument you can probably be happy – it's all about enjoyment and having fun, NOT the Albert Hall. Having said that, we would probably play the occasional gig.

We have a fairly large sitting room so could initially play there. Oh, and if we have a large ensemble we'll need a conductor, so please keep that role in mind too...

If this sounds like you. Please drop me an email and I'll be in touch. I'm Graham Wood on graham.wood2014@gmail.com



BUS EXPLORERS

Please note from immediate effect Bus Explorers recently formed new group has decided that due to very little interest or support over the past few months, It is not viable to continue this group .

Therefore there are no further outings planned.

I would like to thank the dedicated few who did arrange and enjoy the few trips that did happen .

Pearl Muers

One month before turning 95, Patricia Routledge wrote this. She died last month, aged 96.

"I'll be turning 95 this coming Monday. When I was younger, I often worried I wasn't good enough—that I'd never be cast again, that I'd disappoint my mother. But these days begin in peace and end in gratitude."

In my forties, my life finally began to make sense. Before that, I'd performed steadily—provincial stages, radio plays, West End productions—but felt somewhat lost. I was searching for something within myself, a home I hadn't yet found.

At 50, I took a television role that many of you would later know me by—Hyacinth Bucket from Keeping Up Appearances. I thought it would just be a minor role, a brief moment. I never expected it to become



beloved across the globe. That character taught me to embrace my quirks and quietly healed something deep within me.

At 60, I started learning Italian—not for my career, but simply so I could sing opera in its native tongue. I learned the gentle art of living alone without loneliness, reading poetry aloud each night—not to perfect diction, but to soothe my spirit.

At 70, I returned to Shakespearean theatre, a place I once thought I'd aged out of. This time, there was nothing to prove. I stepped onto those legendary boards with calmness. The audience felt that serenity. I had stopped performing; I was simply being.

At 80, I discovered watercolour painting. I painted flowers from my garden, nostalgic hats from my youth, and faces glimpsed on the London Underground—each painting was a silent memory made tangible.

Now, at 95, I write letters by hand. I'm learning the simple joy of baking rye bread. I still breathe deeply each morning. Laughter remains precious, though I no longer feel the need to make others laugh. Quietness is sweeter than ever.

I'm writing this today to share something simple and true: Growing older isn't a final act—it can be life's most exquisite chapter if you allow yourself to bloom once more.

Let the years ahead be your treasure years. You don't have to be perfect, famous, or adored. You only need to be present—fully—for the life that's yours.

With warmth and gentle love, — Patricia Routledge

Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum(EVMA)

It seems quite a long time since Brendan Gibb-Gray gave a talk to U3A members about his vision for a memorial Arboretum up at Hampshire Farm Meadows. As a number of U3A members have supported Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum(EVMA) from its founding in 2022, I suggested to Yvonne Copeland that we give an update on the



Arboretum in this Newsletter. This also seems appropriate after the recent sad loss of Richard Galloway who put so much in to this project from the beginning, culminating in having secured EVMA being registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in July of this year.

Yvonne writes: We have lost three of our Founder trustees, Brendan, Richard

Hitchcock and now Richard Galloway. We have welcomed three new trustees, Lulu Bowerman, Matthew Bennett and Frank Campbell (I too am being registered as a trustee) but are still looking for other interested active people who may like to get involved. Financial expertise/help on gift Aid and VAT would be useful, secretarial and administrative help is needed too so if anyone would like to investigate ways of getting involved please check on the website www.evma.org.uk and complete the e-mail to be found there. Alternatively do contact me direct

(01243389877) or ypmcopeland@gmail.com (there might be a slight delay in me getting back to you as I am having cataract surgery October and November). We are very lucky to have exceptional volunteers who manage the database and website. On the website you will find photographs and details of our most recent achievements as well as historical information, biodiversity information and forthcoming events, The In Memoriam Binders are now located in Westbourne Parish Church, Emsworth Library and the Museum. A new information board and plaque sign has been unveiled on site in September (see above) and two benches have been installed this month (October). These commemorate separately the now disbanded Emsworth Ramblers, and Brendan as EVMA founder. The money which has been so generously donated in memory of Brendan has been ringfenced for Education which is an objective to be developed as we progress.

It has recently been agreed by HBC that an accessible path will be provided and so far about 170 trees have been planted. This includes a number of disease resistant Elms as part of a research project. The next planting will be on 1st November. The work parties are organised by Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows with details posted on their Facebook page and contact is through Neil Mant

hfmfriends@gmail.com.



Yvonne Copeland

THE SPIRIT OF UKRAINE!

Get ready to immerse yourself in a vibrant world of Ukraine culture on **SATURDAY 15th November 2025** at **St Paul's Church CHICHESTER!** Yes, you are all invited to a **FREE Cultural Festival** which will take place on the **15th November**. You will be entertained with **traditional music, folk dancing, food, craft and more!**

The **VOLYA Art Community group** present this programme where you can celebrate connect and experience the heart of **UKRAINE** right in the centre of **CHICHESTER!**

All proceeds from this afternoon will go to the **CHESTNUT HOUSE CHILDRENS HOSPICE!**

The programme commences at **1.00pm** and will end at **4.30pm**. Catch a bus from Emsworth or by car use the Northgate Car Park. See map below.

Programme:

1.00 - 2.00 Dessert Fair and Art Exhibition
2.00 – 3.30 Concert (Ukrainian and English music)

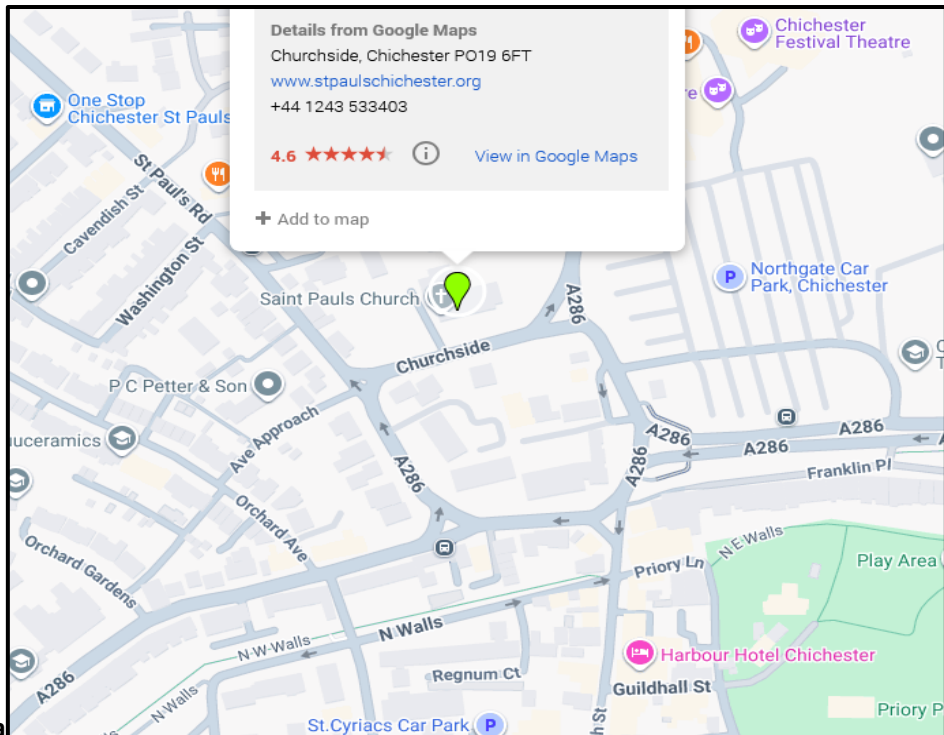
3.30 – 4.30 Craft Fair and Folk Dance Workshop

There will be a children's Corner all day if you wish to involve the grandchildren!

You are welcome to come for just a short time, or to stay longer and enjoy the concert from 2pm to 3.30pm. To register for this (yes, it really is free) event and see its full description, please go to Eventbrite – Ukraine Cultural Festival Chichester.

SEE YOU THERE! Poster at the end of this newsletter.





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CRAFT GROUP LOOK TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

Angela Blunden writes: We had a great time for our October meeting, and we welcomed back a couple of the group that have been away for a while!



We were doing various things this month, Autumn Door Wreaths, Knitting Teddie Bears, making Christmas Cards & sewing Fabric Landscapes, so a busy time with wonderful results and with lots of fun, chat and laughter!

Citizens Advice Service talk.

We were treated to an excellent talk on Thursday 23rd October by a representative of Citizens Advice. The various subjects that they give free advice about was truly numerous! We are fortunate to have a sub office at Emsworth which opens from 10.00am to 2.00pm every first and Third Thursday in the month.

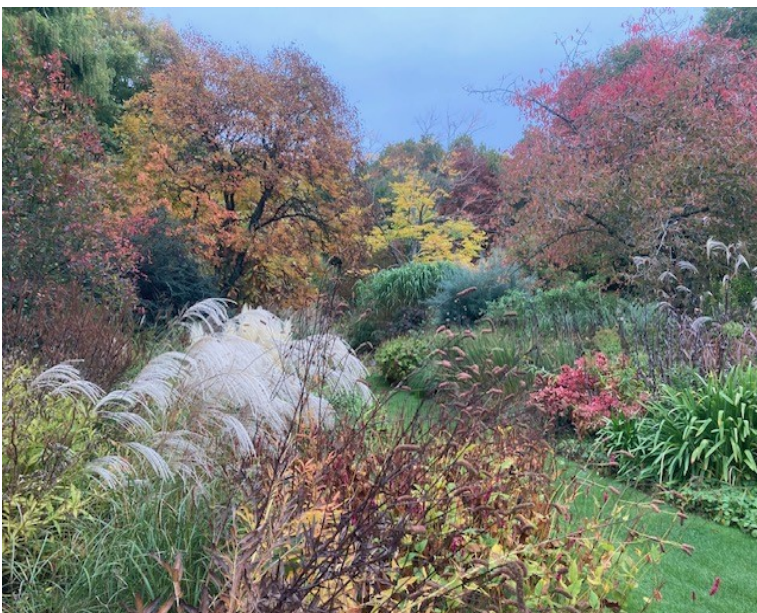
This is at the Emsworth Baptist Church - Cabin (Eden) in the grounds of the church. Other ways to get support - Call them on 0808 278 7809, Email them on advice@citizensadvicehavant.org, or you can visit their website - <https://www.citizensadvicehavant.org>. They provide a wonderful service!

Garden Group visit Knoll Gardens and Compton Acres

Diana Faithfull organised this garden visit and asked all members of our u3a if they wished to join this outing via this newsletter. She was able to fill the 49 seater Westrings Coach, and what a lovely day we enjoyed! *The happy members are pictured below, disembarking at Compton Acres, Poole.*



Our first visit of the day was to Knoll Gardens at Wimbourne. This is such a lovely place. The gardens are beautifully set out and the style is a good mixture of formal and informal. Knoll specialises in ornamental grasses but even plants often used as houseplants are incorporated into the landscaping. Fallen trees make architectural features here. There were enough places to sit in the sun or shade to take in the peaceful atmosphere. (Yes, the sun did shine a little on this dry but cloudy day.) The staff were friendly and helpful. The two gardeners that I spoke to explained that everything we were viewing was, before 1960, a bare CARROT field! Yes carrots were grown in this sandy soil for cattle feed! Now you see a very interesting planting mix, ponds, beds, mature trees and crisscrossing paths weaved throughout this garden of some four acres. We were not there at rhododendron and azalea time but the autumnal shades that we enjoyed were at their very best! The head gardener admitted that the long dry summer had led to this magnificent mix of the grasses showing their best, and combining with the early shades of red, orange, yellow, and everything in between in the trees above! The pictures below give you an idea of how lucky we were in choosing this very day for our visit!



Then onto Compton Acres in Poole. We arrived at lunchtime and some immediately took advantage of the wonderful Café facilities! (Fish and chips seemed a favourite....)

I had last visited these gardens some good time before the Boer war, and was interested to refresh that distant memory. We saw an absolute gem of a garden, or rather gardens! It is a little hilly but there are excellent accessible concrete paths as well as woodchip type ones. There was very good signage throughout and the map we were given was very clear. But men don't read maps – so we were lucky enough to meet a lady gardener very early on, who put us right in the way that eighty year olds ought to be taught (firmly but politely) and we never put a foot wrong thereafter! We were totally captivated by the different types of gardens from the more formal to the rock gardens and the woodland glades. Once again, the seasonal colour and the unusual plants made it a great experience. There were benches around to sit and contemplate the beauty around you. Spectacular sculptures are around every corner and provide an added bonus! Compton Acres was constructed in 1920 by Mr Thomas Simpson, and today these gardens are still acknowledged as one of the finest privately owned gardens in England.

There are ten acres of horticultural heaven: you first hit the Italian Garden with luxurious water fountains, statuary, topiary and begonias galore! (*top left below*) then proceed to the the 'Wooded Valley' with winding pathways and dramatic waterfalls, these wooded gardens are quite dramatic and reflect characteristics of woodlands from across the world. (*top right below*). Then onto the 'Rock & Water Gardens' (*bottom left below*) and the Heather Gardens (*bottom right but not in flower*)



We ended at the Japanese gardens where I have borrowed a pic from their web site to show the spring beauty of this masterpiece!



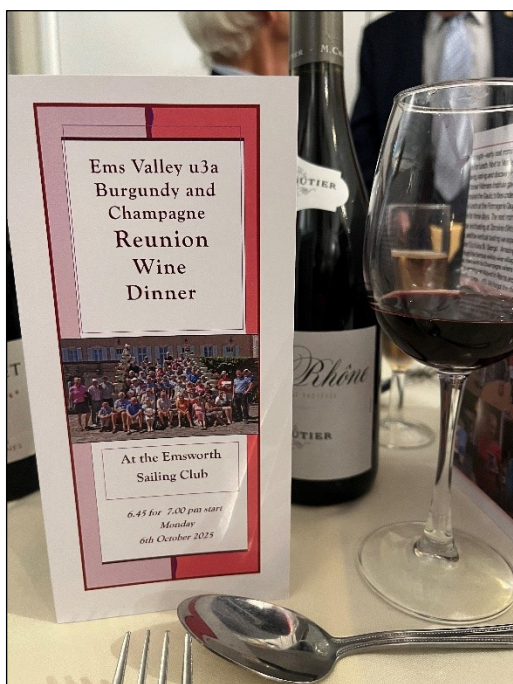
Our thanks to Diana Faithfull for arranging this wonderful day out!



Alan Borrow

NOSTALGIA NIGHT FOR THE WINOS!

When Wine One (together with a sprinkling of Wine two members) completed their ten wine trips to the hot wine spots of Europe it was decided to hold a reunion dinner ten years after the event to remember each trip! Covid intervened and it became an eleven year anniversary. Monday 6th October saw the sixth dinner of this series when we visited Chablis, Burgundy and Champagne! Quite a lot of ground to cover you may think – and it took the 48 of us eight days to do it!. Our 'WOODS' coach took us through Troyes, Chablis, Auxerre, Vezeley, Avallon, Semur en Auxois, Dijon, Nuits Saint Georges, Beaune, Chalons sur Saone, Buxy, Epernay and Reims.



We visited several wineries and one fromagerie, We explored Flavigny where the film 'Chocolat' was made, and toured Alesia where Julius Caesar routed the Gaulic tribes all those years ago (before coming to England!). Our most prestigious wine tasting ever, was held at Chateau Arlot in Nuits Saint Georges. Here we tasted a vertical flight of vintages (2007 – 2008 – 2009 – 2010 - 2011) of their acclaimed 'Clos de Foret' all wines designated 'Premier Cru Nuits Saint Georges'. A memorable tasting where we were taught to recognise and appreciate the difference that the climate of a particular year has on the actual vintage. The public are not accepted at this exceptional winery, it was so fortunate that we had Richard Galloway amongst our members and it was his influence and position as a pensioner of the holding company that made the visit possible. It was very very sad that Richard had passed away just a couple of weeks earlier.

I announced at the dinner that, after due consideration, this would be the last of these reunion dinners, as Anno Domini was catching up and that the four remaining trips to Italy (twice), Portugal and the Alsace would have to remain uncelebrated! Members from Wine Three, Four and Five were present in force and it was great to have the opportunity to get together in vinous fraternity! I apologise for the fact that one wine table is missing in the happy set of photos below!

Alan Borrow

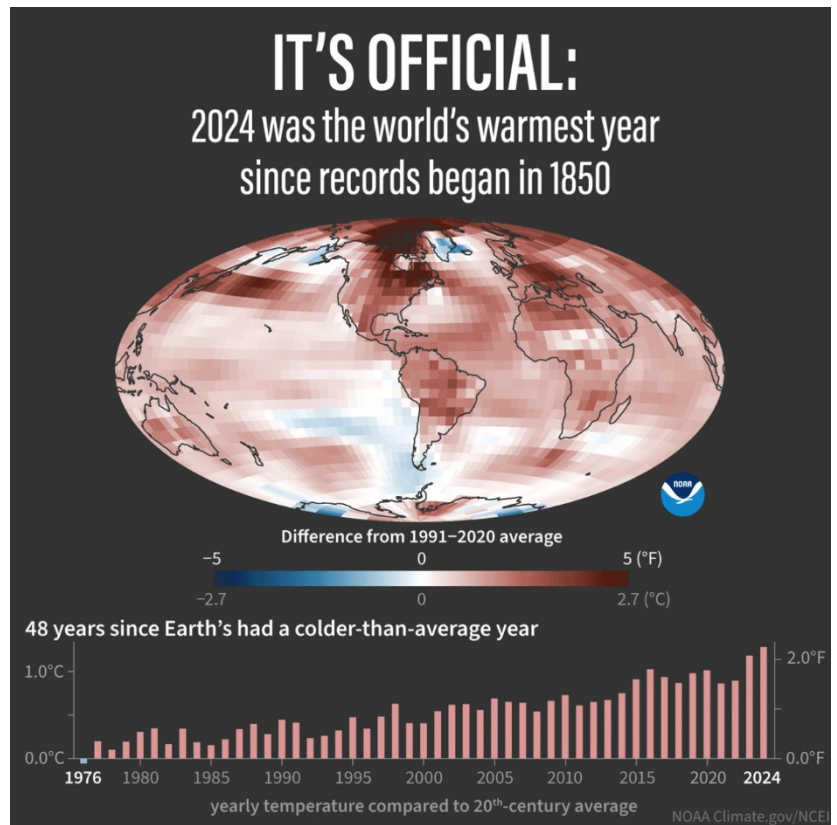
(with thanks to Anne Powell for the photos!)



STEM look at Climate Change at their November Meeting

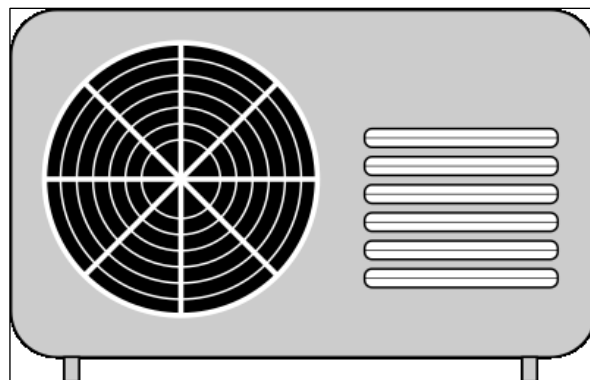
Charlotte Johns (Lottie to her friends), will be giving a talk titled, "Climate Change: Past, Present ... and maybe a Future?" In summary, this will be an overview of our rapidly changing climate - How did we get to where we are? What does it mean? and What is human kind doing for our future existence? Warmer temperatures we are experiencing are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth. Geoff invites, as usual, all members of our U3a to join them for this important talk! (Church Hall, Church Path Emsworth) on Thursday 6 November at 2.00pm.

Geoff also reminds us of Lottie's excellent recent talk about introducing Oysters into Chichester Harbour to help clean the water.



Roger Keverne was unable to give his talk on New Zealand at the STEM October meeting, due to a last-minute illness. It is hoped that he will be able to do this in the near future. Geoff Whalley stepped in and gave an impromptu talk on the fundamentals of Radar at Sea, and he is going to follow up this with a part two at their Christmas meeting on Thursday 11th of December. He says: “Having got the basic theory out of the way, I plan to make part two more light hearted – although I will give a quick summary of the basics for those who missed part 1! I hope it will go well with a glass of wine in your hand – which we will serve first!”

Geoff reports that plans for next year are developing nicely, although they are still looking for more talks and workshops for the 2026 season. Please let Geoff know if you have any contributions or ideas! He brings attention to a future workshop on Heat Pumps, and Solar Arrays etc. Increasingly people are fitting these and several members have suggested sharing their experiences with our Group. He feels that this is an important topic because, notwithstanding the need to reduce our CO2 emissions, increasingly, we are being bombarded with advertising initiatives from firms offering to fit these items to our homes with “Government Funded Grants”. It is important to understand what you require and not listen to salesmen’s gimmicks. They are often completely non-technical people, who have no understanding of what we really need or the real implications of the various options!



Their Christmas meeting has been moved to Thursday – 11th December, because of a clash with the u3a Christmas Lunch

Traveller’s Tales are back!

Yes, it is the start of the season for our travelling members and October 20th was the first meeting of this evening group. Leader John and Loli Kieran recounted their city visit to beautiful Vienna and the picture left shows the Schönbrunn Palace. Vienna, the capital city of Austria, he told us is renowned for its rich history, cultural heritage, stunning architecture, and vibrant arts scene. It certainly looked so!



In the second half Vince Lavender gave a photographic extravaganza of his Scottish cruise around islands and canals on the Lord of the Glens (pictured below moored at Tobermory). He ‘took us on board’ one of Scotland’s most elegant cruise ships – Lord of the Glens and we enjoyed the totally relaxing Scottish Highland cruise along stunning waterways, hidden sea lochs and beautiful island gems. We even saw the Loch Ness Monster at the end! The Lord of the Glens looked to have very sleek looks and a most comfortable interior! The food looked good too.

Vince told us that a maximum of 50 passengers means that guests become quickly acquainted with each other, and the ship’s livery is much inspired by the Royal Yacht Britannia, and similarities continue inside. Measuring 150 feet long with a beam of 34 feet, she has twin propellers and bow thrusters, together with wing controls. These were very necessary, he said, when navigating the Caledonian canal where the gap between the ship’s side and the canal edge sometimes was a few inches!



Camera Workshop group and Photography group merge.

Russ Wakefield writes: we merged the Camera Workshop and the Photo groups together on the 1st Sept 2025, into the U3a Ems Valley Photography Group. We are a friendly group of amateur photographers with varying levels of experience, expertise and equipment. We seek to help each other improve and get the most out of our hobby, and there is always a fellow member who will give advice and assistance, whether on technique, composition or how to use your particular equipment.

Members use a wide range of equipment ranging from the latest mirrorless camera or the smartphone in their pocket. We meet at Emsworth Community Centre on the third Monday of each month, and we arrange a field trip on the Thursday or Friday of the fourth week.

I have attached some images from our recent trip to Petworth Park on Thursday 3rd October 2025



Mankind, having trashed the planet, calmly playing golf!

Geoff Whalley sends this item in. He says: I came across this - which in my view says it all!

“In the pantheon of visual metaphors for America today, this is the money shot,” tweeted the TV writer (and creator of *The Wire*) **David Simon** in response to this image of golfers calmly putting against the backdrop of a wildfire. It was snapped by local amateur photographer **Kristi McCluer**, in 2017, on the third day of a fire that swept the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon and Washington for three months, burning 50,000 acres.



Teddies 4 Tragedies



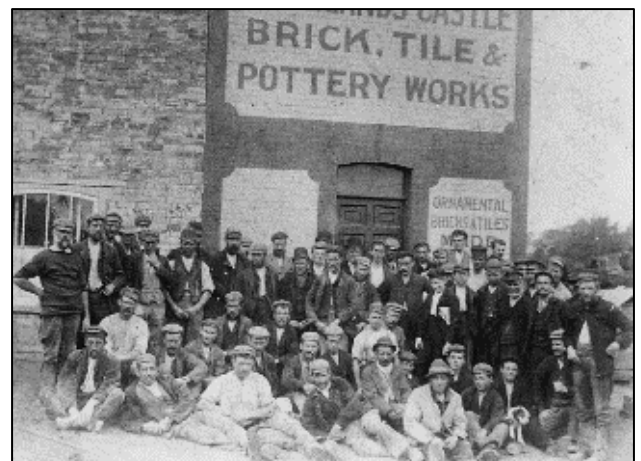
Teddies for Tragedies was started as a pattern for knitted teddies intended to bring comfort and hope to children around the world. It all began in 1986 in Somerset, "Superted", a washable knitted teddy, was added to a consignment of medicines going to a refugee camp in Sudan. The doctor replied "For some children, these teddies do more good than medicines, giving them hope". The teddy knitting began, and a bag was added, increasing the play value. In 1991, when the pattern came to Guildford, Surrey, and there are a number of branches around the country. Our Craft group became aware of this wonderful group and **June Morse** co-opted non Craft member **Hilary Headon** who "got busy"! Four of Hilary's finished Teddies are pictured above and several of June's bags are pictured above left!

A consignment of 300 teddies left this area on Wednesday 22nd October for the Guilford collection station and we hope these will find good homes in the very near future!

Well done June and Hilary!

BRICK BUSINESS GOES LOCAL!

On Tuesday 28th October, thirty intrepid u3a 'Brickies' were treated to a nostalgic talk on life at the Rowlands Castle Brickworks where a dedicated workforce survived quite harsh working conditions. Rowlands Castle made red bricks for major projects like Portsmouth dockyard, local homes and their pièce de résistance - The Metropole Hotel on the seafront at Brighton! Employees, many of whom worked outdoors in all weather, were part of a primitive industry that was active from the 1880s until 1968. Those workers and the surrounding landscape, including clay pits and ponds, were a distinct part of the village's character, although a housing estate now stands on that land! **Alan Borrow**



Ukrainian Cultural Festival

THE SPIRIT OF UKRAINE!

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Ukrainian culture at our festival - with traditional music, dance, food, craft, and more!

Saturday, 15 November 2025

1:00 - 4:30 PM

St. Paul's Church, Chichester

★ Programme

1:00 - 2:00 - Dessert Fair & Art Exhibition

2:00 - 3:30 - Concert (Ukrainian & English music)

3:30 - 4:30 - Craft Fair & Folk Dance Workshop

Children's Corner all day



All proceeds go to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice

*Come celebrate, connect and experience
the heart of Ukraine right here
in Chichester!*



Presented by

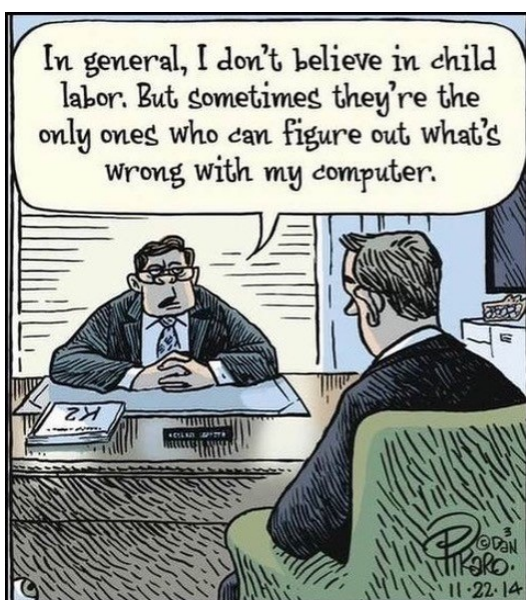
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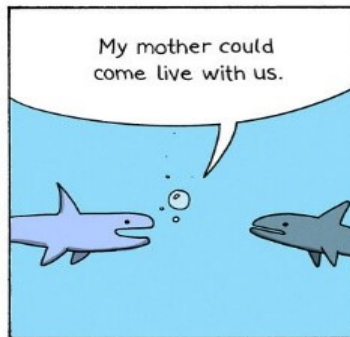
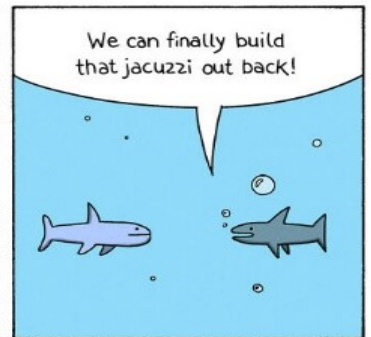
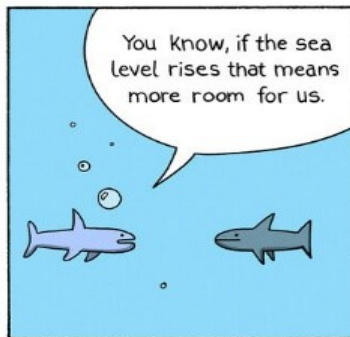
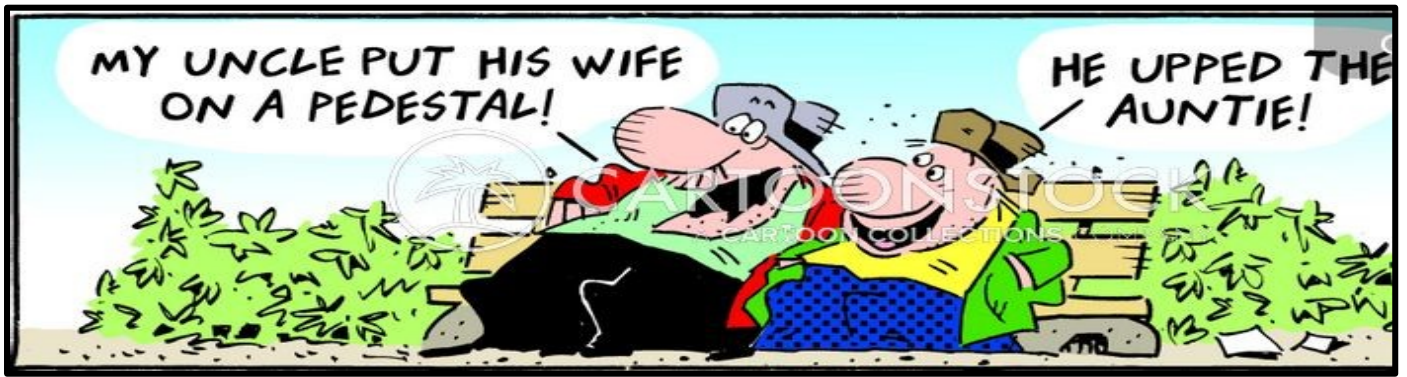
Art Community Group

Ronald Reagan used to tell this joke: He said that he was driving at about 50 mph when he noticed that a chicken was running beside the car and keeping up, so Reagan said that he speeded up to 60 mph and the chicken was still keeping up. Well, he ended up at the farm where the chicken lived, so he asked the farmer about how the chicken could run so fast. "Well, he has three legs. You see, I enjoy chicken legs, so do my wife and son, so I bred them to have three legs." Reagan asked if they tasted good. The farmer said, "I don't know. We haven't caught one yet."

ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."





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