



February 2026 Newsletter

An Interview with past Chairman Richard Swaine:

Ed: Richard, are you an Emsworth lad, born and bred?

Richard: No, I was brought up in Swanage, many will have been there, a bustling seaside town but very quiet in Winter. So, at 15, what should/could I do? A local trade? No, 'I thought it out again' and signed up to join the Royal Navy and a medical and train ticket later, with 20 other local Wessex boys we were taken to the Gaumont in Southampton to see "Shane"! The very next day, waiting our arrival in Shotley, Suffolk was HMS Ganges, a 2,000 boys training establishment near Ipswich, well known locally for its famous 127 foot mast which all recruits had to climb to the 'half moon' (just below the last yardarm).

An 18 month signals course then followed to become a telegraphist along with further schooling before going to sea as a 17 year old. The Mediterranean and the Cod war was my introduction to RN life. My memories of the latter were hugh seas, long icicles and rendezvousing with Grimsby trawlers on a Saturday before dark to receive their thanks by way of our fish supper!

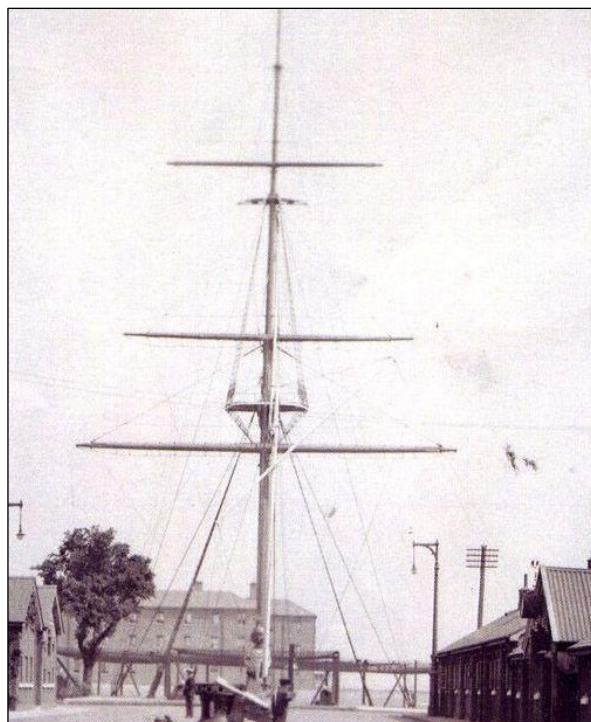
Ed; How did you come to meet Sandie?

Richard: After the North Sea, I had 18 months away from UK in the Far East on a commando carrier, HMS "Albion". Many periods in Singapore, Hong Kong and Borneo followed. I returned to UK in April 1964 and quite soon afterwards I met Sandie. The following year we moved to Scotland for a year, before my ship sailed for the Middle East. When Rhodesia declared UDI I was onboard a frigate in the Indian Ocean and there was this occasion when an RFA radio officer became unwell. "Have you ever heard of a 'jackstay transfer'" said our Captain, no? "Well you will be transferred (PICTURE) to an RFA today, enjoy the ride"!

It was time to return home, and in 1967, we were assigned to HMS "Mercury", (now a housing estate) and lived in married quarters at Lovedean. I stayed there until I read an ad for work with IBM in a national paper, and so began a new career. My decision in 1969 to join IBM was after seeing how this company treated their staff – they hired for one week 20 TV's to make sure no one missed the moon landing!

Ed But how did you get to Emsworth?

Richard: At this point we found out about Emsworth via our Haskins Coal Merchant who had his depot where Pagham Close and Sadlers Walk are today. Parkinsons were selling town houses in Highland



Road for £4,800. We needed 3 times annual salary (£ 3,600 for our first Mortgage, payable over 25 years!)

Ed: And you liked working for IBM?

Richard: Yes I did. During the 24 years with the company, we were lucky to be offered to go and work in Belgium for 9 years. This worked well as our children were enrolled in The British School of Brussels, a thousand students and nearly 80 nationalities all working on a UK curriculum. I started a cricket team there and Sandie worked in the School helping families to re-settle. We found the Belgian people very kind and with high standards (particularly where food was concerned). In 1992 we returned to UK. in 1993 I accepted an offer to leave IBM early.

Ed: You took an early retirement package?

Richard: Yes, but what to do ? During my time in Europe I had watched and admired consultants from some of the well known Business Schools and wondered if I could do that. So that is what I ended up doing for the next twelve years! I had contracts all over, in Liverpool for 2 years, Manchester and Milton Keynes for 3 years each and at Heathrow for 2 years plus a few others. One day the fax and telephone stopped ringing!

I had time on my hands, Sandie was working at Steels the Opticians so I needed to do something, and I enrolled at Southdowns College to join a class of 16 year olds to do GCE "A" Level Spanish. The course was for 2 years.

Ed: I think that it was about that time that I entered your life?

Richard: Yes, you moved into "Share a Drive" 2C Park Crescent in 2005 and by 2009, I realised that I was missing out by ignoring membership of Ems Valley u3a! You asked me to consider starting an Ems Valley Spanish Group as you felt there would be a demand, I joined and became Group leader with my new 'A' level under my belt! , that was 17 years ago and we continue to meet twice a month.

Ed; What other interest groups do you attend?

Richard: I am a member of Local History, Ancient Greece, Bricks, Cycling for Fun and Traveller's Tales. Sandie and I also have such happy memories of our eight trips to Europe with Wine One.

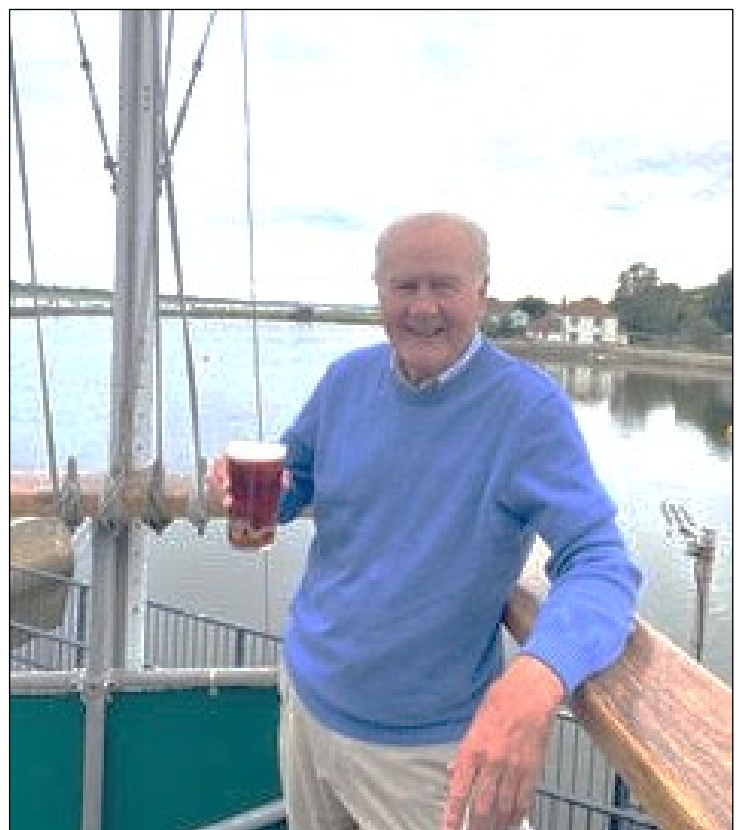
I also had a lovely time as Chairman of our u3a between 2012 and 2014.

Ed: Tell us what you do when u3a is not the subject:

Richard: I spend as much as 2 mornings a week at our local Men's Shed. Sandie started it and I have been a Trustee since it began. This is a wonderful initiative and with so many skilful friends to learn from. There are nearly 60 members, incredible really when you think 5 years ago there were none and no equipment or tools. The old pigeon hut on the Community Centre site has been put to very good use and continues to help so many local people.

Ed: We always end an interview with you being cast away on a desert island with the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare but we can grant you one other request....

Richard: Well that would be for a wireless so I could listen to cricket and football matches. It would need to be a long range radio and receive Morse code.



SINGING FOR FUN AT CHRISTMASTIME!

Festive Jumpers, singing and of course always FUN! Our festive celebrations started early at our last U3A Singing for fun session of 2025. On Wed 26th November, we 'styled out' our festive jumpers, sang festive songs, played a variety of musical instruments, ate festive snacks and there was plenty of friendly chatting over a cuppa.



We sang a number of our usual familiar and easy to sing songs for the first half of the session, then went full on festive for the second half. Keith (pictured in his Rudolph jumper and Christmas hat) did a fabulous job banging on his drum, whilst we sang The Little Drummer Boy.



Spirits were lifted by familiar Christmas songs and carols and everyone left ready for the festive season and the promise of Christmas on its way.

Our group 'Singing for Fun' is not a choir, we don't rehearse for performance and we sing in unison. So if singing brings you joy (even if you don't feel you have much of a voice) then we'd love you to join our very friendly cheerful group. No audition, no pressure, no performance nerves.

Just a fun time with friends, singing easy familiar songs, plenty of laughter and a good natter over refreshments. We welcome everyone!



At present we meet at International Hall, part of Emsworth Methodist Church, in St Peters Square, 19 High Street, Emsworth PO10 7AQ 2 - 3.30pm on 4th Wednesday each month (except Aug & Dec). Pop along to any session, on your own or with other members and give it a try, we'd love to welcome you.

Maybe see you next month?

N.B we will be returning to our usual venue of the Assembly Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre, once the building work is completed.



Linda Long (Singing lead)
Jill Ashburn (Admin and enquiries)

“THE CONNECTION” comes to Local History

Local History group is run – in true u3a spirit – by the members! Each month the members take it in turn to either give a talk or arrange a speaker or a visit! It is my turn on Friday 6th February! My power point presentation is titled “THE CONNECTION? The Architect, the Brewer and the very Famous Crime Writer”.

The only clue I am giving is that it is centered on Portsmouth and Southsea. If you want to find out this connection you need to come to Mountford Three at 2.00pm on Friday 6th February and all will be revealed! Our leader Reg Newnham is away, abroad, but he has promised a cup of tea in the interval. At our last meeting we were treated to rare old postcard views of Emsworth and district by member Deborah Nicol and much fun was had in working out the current status. Some of those postcards were truly “one-offs” which Debbie had obtained over a long period of searching!

A meeting earlier in the year, took us around the Leigh Park House grounds and, because we ran out of time on that visit, we are promised a return trip here this coming year. What other delights are in store for “LOCAL HISTORY” in 2026!

I understand that Reg has many!

Looking forward to seeing you on Friday 6th Feb. (non members welcome) Alan Borrow



Recent STEM Group Meetings

We held two very enjoyable meetings in November and December and Alan has suggested that we write an article about these for the Newsletter.

At our November STEM Group meeting we were treated to a talk and discussion on “Climate Change: Past, Present ... and maybe a Future?”, by Charlotte Johns (Lottie to her friends). Lottie is passionately concerned about climate change and what mankind is doing to our planet. Some of you will have attended her excellent talk at our April STEM Group on introducing oysters into Chichester Harbour to help clean the water.

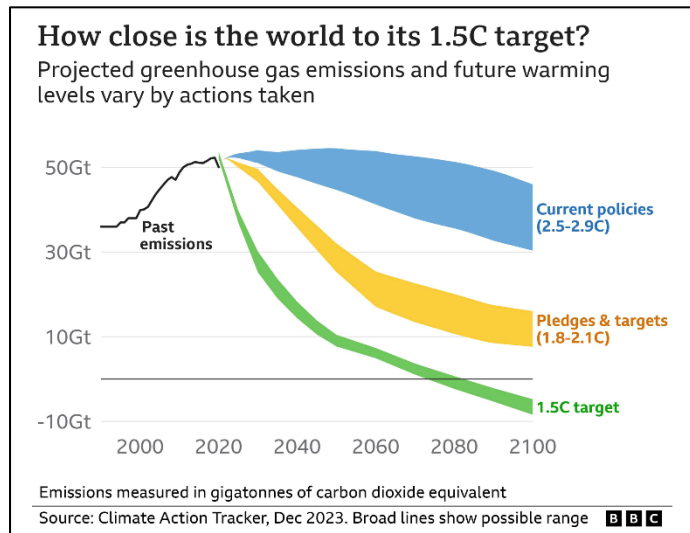
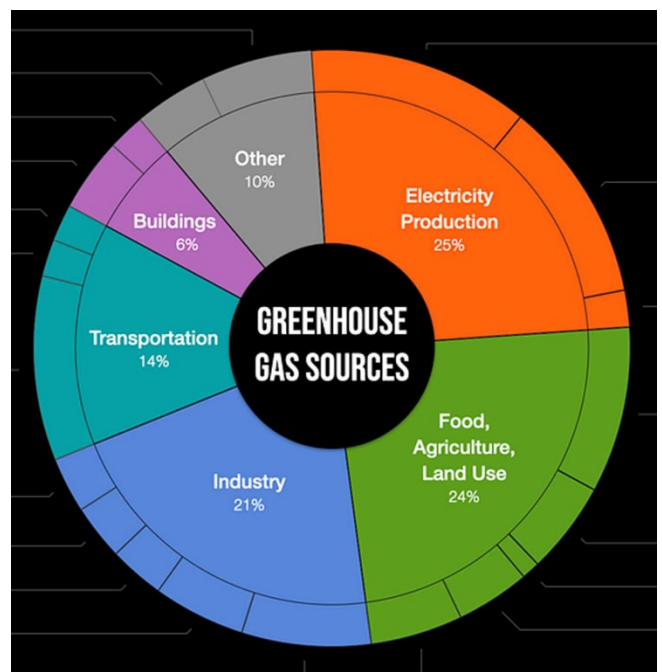
In summary, her talk on Climate Change was an overview of our rapidly changing climate – How did we get to where we are?, What does it mean? and What is human kind doing for our future existence?

The greenhouse Effect is well known major culprit for global warming and we were shown past historic data of CO2 concentration in the atmosphere – showing a rise to almost double during the last few hundred years, clearly due to the activities of humans. In more recent years scientists have studied the main contributors to greenhouse gases.

Two major contributors from human kind are;-

- ☑ CO2 from burning fossil fuels -62%
- ☑ CH4 (Methane) from agriculture and Industry – 16%

The diagram shows greenhouse gases produced by various types of human activity. The surprising figures being 24% from Agriculture and Food and just 14% for all forms of transport. The consequences of global warming are predicted to be catastrophic. Rising sea levels, unpredictable weather patterns extreme weather events,



land degradation and loss of biodiversity. Scientists believe that we need to restrict the rise in global temperature to below 2 degrees C, if we are to avoid moving towards positive feedback effect, where the earth’s natural temperature regulators are irrevocably damaged and the planet begins to heat uncontrollably. This could possibly lead to the ultimate extinction of mankind.

To try to reverse this trend, the UN has set a Convention on Climate Change, which holds regular international meetings – the most famous being the Paris agreement in 2015. This is a legally binding treaty to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, by setting national emission reduction targets. All governments, fearful of losing popular support, lack the political will to take the actions needed to save our planet! Meanwhile humans enjoy life, while ignoring the catastrophic future for our planet, posed by manmade global warming. Lottie’s talk was also well timed, being a few days before the COP 30 UN Climate Change meeting in Brazil! Our meeting was attended by a bumper number of Ems Valley U3a members, demonstrating the concern we share for this topic.

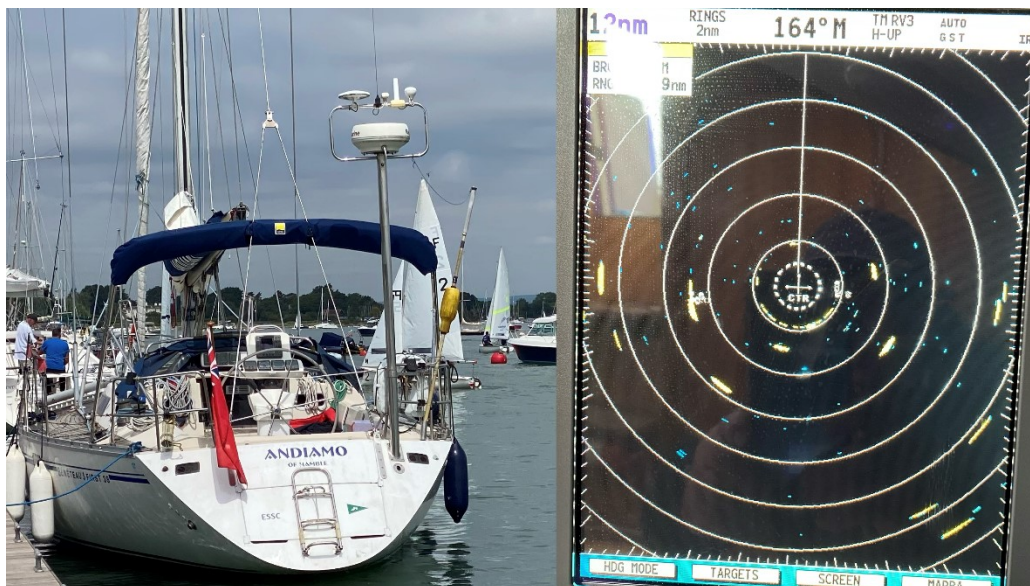
Moving on to our December meeting we were given a continuation of an earlier talk on Radar, by our Leader, Geoff Whalley. This was made even more interesting because it was within Geoff’s field of expertise prior to retirement. He certainly knew his stuff – and more than he would tell us!

So, what is Radar? Radar is a system that uses radio waves to determine the distance (ranging), direction, and radial velocity of objects relative to the site. It is used to detect and track aircraft, ships, spacecraft, guided missiles, motor vehicles, weather formations and terrain. The term RADAR was coined in 1940 by the United States Navy as an acronym for radio detection and ranging. The term radar has since entered English and other languages as an anacronym, a common noun, losing all capitalization.

A radar system consists of transmitter producing electromagnetic waves, a transmitting antenna, a receiving antenna (often the same antenna is used for transmitting and receiving) and a receiver and processor to determine properties of the objects. Radio waves (pulsed or continuous) from the transmitter reflect off the objects and return to the receiver, giving information about the objects, locations and speeds. It’s a bit like a cone shaped searchlight, sending back information on distance and location. The modern uses of radar are highly diverse, including air and terrestrial traffic control, radar astronomy, air-defence systems, anti-missile systems, marine radars to locate landmarks and other ships, aircraft anti-collision systems – using radars in the noses of aircraft or missiles for example.

Geoff showed us a range of radars to be found at sea, from low-cost radar equipment used on leisure craft, through to commercial radars and finishing with expensive naval radars. At sea there are major technical challenges posed by the very wide range of radar cross sections (the size of a target seen by a radar), varying from a few square metres for a fibreglass yacht to over one million square metres for large commercial ships. Geoff demonstrated photos of radar displays, showing the effect of a large ship in proximity to a cheap leisure radar, from a channel crossing in his own yacht – “Andiamo of Hamble”.

We went on to hear about the types of radar mandated for commercial ships and the difficulties with large cruise liners and container ships in getting a clear radar view of the water directly in front of them. It was really interesting to hear about Naval Radar and airborne military radars, including the advanced and powerful maritime radar, the US Navy Phased Array SPY-1. This is fitted widely to US air-



defence ships. There is no rotating antenna. It has four fixed arrays, 90 degrees each, with very long-range surveillance and tracking capability. The big advantage of phased arrays is the ability to track and engage multiple airborne targets.

We finished up watching an amusing video, showing how the Russian Navy teaches attack tactics against a ship fitted with a SPY-1 phased array radar. The video was of course a spoof, made by a US radar contractor and available on YouTube!

Geoff stressed that all the information in his talk is freely available in textbooks and on the internet! **Our next STEM Meeting is February 5th at 2.00pm, usual venue at St James’s Hall. Do come and join us - the topic, led by a visiting speaker from Emsworth Surgery PPG, will be “NHS eConsult”** – Why it is being introduced and how to use it. All members of Ems Valley U3A are warmly invited. If interested, just let Geoff know, via stem@emsvalleyu3a.org.

Pam Palmer and Geoff Whalley

Take the Train at Christmas – read on:

(or The moral of this story is...? Go to the bottom of the article....)

‘Let’s ditch the car and travel by train to Devon’ we decided. ‘The roads are bound to be busy just before Christmas. It’s probably quicker by train and it will be an adventure.’

How wrong could we be?

The booking clerk in Emsworth station was very helpful. We had several choices on how to get to Totnes (our destination).

We could change at Southampton and Salisbury and then Exeter and finally travel to our destination. But, we would need to wear our running shoes as there was only a few minutes between trains - oh and the lift at Southampton is out of order. Not ideal for us wrinklies.

It was quicker however, to start at Havant, then Guildford, change for Reading and a longer change, so time for coffee, then onward to Totnes...so we went for that option.

I’m amazed at how many excuses the railways operatives can think up. ‘The dog ate my homework’ has nothing on theirs.

We were offered points failure for an hours delay on Reading station with the wind whistling round our legs. Another was a slow train ahead of us (We never saw this phantom train) The level crossing gates have failed so only cars and pedestrians can use them (at New Milford) and the train before yours has been cancelled and so have reserved seats; that meant a free for all!

Oh and best of all, the Paddington train will terminate at Reading- everyone trying to find their luggage in readiness for the big evacuation - then five minutes later- no, it’s now going on to Paddington.

The return trip was the journey from hell. Endless announcements at Totnes station where our train was later and

later. Eleven coaches eventually arrived with standing room only from Exeter. Endless apologies announced in a quiet voice by a guard we never saw. Nowhere to put our luggage, no refreshments and as for using the toilets? Well, good luck with that!

The one compensation was the ‘wartime spirit’ shown by the standing passengers in the aisles. They cheerfully lifted our luggage over their heads - like a scene from the film ‘Crocodile Dundee’. I hoped they’d lift me as well, but no luck.

Eventually we were deposited on Reading station and learned that we had missed all our connections!

However, by chance we heard that there was an extra train to Guildford ‘leaving now’ so we two oldies sprinted – well - tottered along the station, up the escalator (lift out of order) and fell into the train. Toilet? Ha ha no time for that!

Our journey back to Emsworth which should have taken under four hours took seven. And to add insult to injury the only taxi at Havant station drove off as we arrived!

...and the moral of this story is...NEVER travel by train over Christmas especially with GWR. Hazel Willard



Interested in the paintings of William TURNER and John CONSTABLE?

Join us at an **Exhibition on Screen: Turner and Constable** on Tuesday 10th March – 1.30pm Havant Spring Theatre!
Interested? Please sign up and forwards payment of £15.00 by TUESDAY 3rd MARCH TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE
Tickets: £15, £10 under 25's SEE BELOW FOR PAYMENT DETAILS.

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of their births, this unmissable new documentary explores Turner and Constable’s intertwined lives and legacies alongside the groundbreaking Tate exhibition. Two of Britain’s greatest painters,

J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were also the greatest of rivals. Born within a year of each other, both used landscape painting to reflect the changing world around them. Tate Britain is bringing these two greats together for this exhibition, in London from November 2025 to April 2026, we can view it on screen, both film and the exhibition together. Discover unexpected sides to both artists with intimate views of sketchbooks and personal items and insights from leading experts. Running time: 91min

PAYMENT DETAILS Send £15.00 to:

MR S GORBAN

Sort Code: 40-45-22

Account Number: 11658476



Ullswater from Gobarrow Park Joseph Mallord William Turner.



A cottage near Reading by John Constable

CAMEO HAVE A NEW VENUE!

EILEEN SNOW WRITES: OUR NEXT MEETING is on TUESDAY 3/2/2026 and I have arranged a new venue which I hope will be more convenient, comfortable and practical for us all.

I hope to see you all at this venue:

Denvilles House Social Club, 33 Emsworth Road, Havant, PO9 28N this coming Tuesday at 10:00am to 12:00 midday. (There is good parking on site) The Club is situated just past the "Meadowlands" turning on the right in Emsworth Road Havant and before the Wheelwright's Arms, also on the right, as you approach Havant.

Our Meeting Room is the Panel Room and there will be refreshment available to buy. The u3a motto is Learn Laugh Live. Well at Cameo we are certainly alive, yes, we do laugh and we learn a lot about each other!



CRAFT GROUP START 2026 WITH NEW IDEAS!

Angela Blunden writes:

We had a great time for our first craft meeting of the year. We experimented with a new technique of transferring images with 'Clear Packing Tape'. We had some successes & some disasters, but we had fun & enjoyed the process of trying out something new. We managed to make some cards and a glass jar with the results which I have attached below.



The king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours. The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain. So the king and the queen went fishing. On the way he met a man with a humble fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting. The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rainstorm." The king replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him." So the king continued on his way. However, in a short time a torrential rain fell from the sky The King and Queen were totally soaked, and caught a bad cold. Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist. Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster. The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain." So the king hired the donkey instead. And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government, a practice that we have unequivocally upheld until the current time.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DAYTRIPPERS GROUP:

Here is a tentative calendar for the upcoming months, following our open planning meeting. All events to be confirmed, as and when we have fuller details, for you.

APRIL: Exbury Gardens

MAY: The Sculpture Park at Churt near Farnham

JUNE: Farleys Farmhouse and Gallery and Firle Place

JULY : Philip Jackson Sculptures, Cocking, West Sussex

AUGUST: A return visit to Southwick House (D Day Planning)

SEPTEMBER: Southampton's Titanic and Roman history Walking Tour (Museum above)

OCTOBER: Milestones Museum, Basingstoke

NOVEMBER: The D Day story, Portsmouth



In 2025, we enjoyed many varied trips:

A Walking tour of Guildford followed by a Lebanese lunch

A visit to Watts Gallery with a guided tour of Watts Chapel

At The Novium MUSEUM in Chichester we viewed the exhibition of Shippams the famous food brand and learned of its history. Following that, we enjoyed a wonderful Thai lunch.

We travelled by rail to The Mayflower THEATRE IN SOUTHAMPTON for a performance of Hamilton

A very successful Coach trip to Bletchley Park

A great day at Charleston Farmhouse in Firle, and a guided visit viewing the murals the St Mary's All Saints CHURCH in nearby Berwick with a great lunch prior at the Berwick Inn.

And we travelled by Car and ferry to visit OSBOURNE HOUSE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Thank you all for your support in making these events successful! Steve Gorban and Simon Winslow

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP FIVE - ENJOY THEIR NEW YEAR DINNER!

A tradition in our group is that we don't have a Christmas meal in December as many other groups have theirs - you can only eat so much roast turkey!

Instead we have a New Year meal after our January tasting.

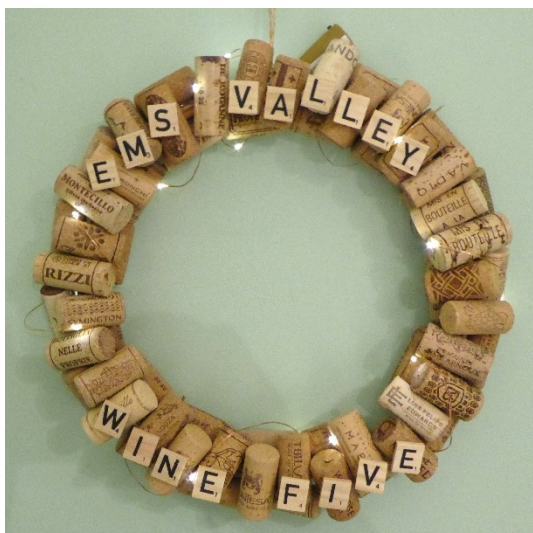
So it was that on 7th January after finishing our tasting at the ECC we just had to walk around the corner to the Darbar Indian restaurant in North Street.

As you can see from the photo, a good time was had by all, which had nothing to do with the fact we had already tasted six bottles of wine. The food was very good as always there, we would recommend this restaurant to any of you who like good ethnic Indian food.

Mark Parker

A passing note on recycling.

Obviously we recycle our bottles but have you ever wondered what happens to all those corks we get through. We so far have saved ours and made them into a wreath!



Editor: Well done Mark on recycling – I note that the Scrabble score is an amazing “34”.....

Waiting to hear how you get on recycling screw tops, you could join the Craft group, I am sure they will come up with an idea.

DIFFERENT EUROPEANS in an Ideal world.....

Heaven is a place where:

The cooks are French

The mechanics are German

The policemen are British

The lovers are Italian

And everything is organized by the Swiss.

And before you start, I did not compose this. Editor

Hell is a place where:

The cooks are British

The mechanics are French

The policemen are German

The lovers are Swiss

And everything is organized by the Italians

Quotation Corner – This month's subject: "CLASS"

When asked by a radio interviewer if she thought the British class barrier had come down:

Of course they have, or I wouldn't be sitting here talking to someone like you **Barbara Cartland**

When I want a peerage, I shall buy it like an honest man **Lord Northcliffe**

The English country gentleman galloping after a fox – the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable **Oscar Wilde**

"You know you're working class when your TV is bigger than your bookcase." **Rob Beckett English comedian**

"There is no class so pitifully wretched as that which possesses money and nothing else." **Andrew Carnegie**

"Why do elites hate the poor? It's xenophobia. They don't know any poor people – except their off-the-books Brazilian nanny and illegal immigrant cleaning lady from Upper Revolta who don't speak English." **P. J. O'Rourke**

"Will the people in the cheaper seats clap your hands? All the rest of you, if you'll just rattle your jewellery." **John Lennon**

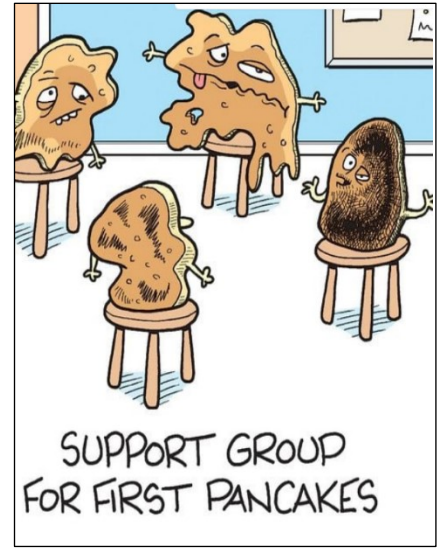
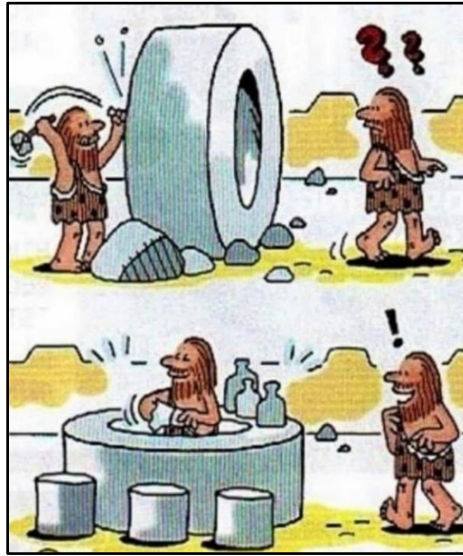
I think factories would close down, actually, if it wasn't for working-class people." **Victoria Wood**

"Nothing is more bourgeois than to be afraid to look bourgeois." **Andy Warhol**



Does anyone else's desk look like this?

Took me all day yesterday but finally finished. A pallet I made from an old coffee table.



Seen in an American edition of "House and Garden"

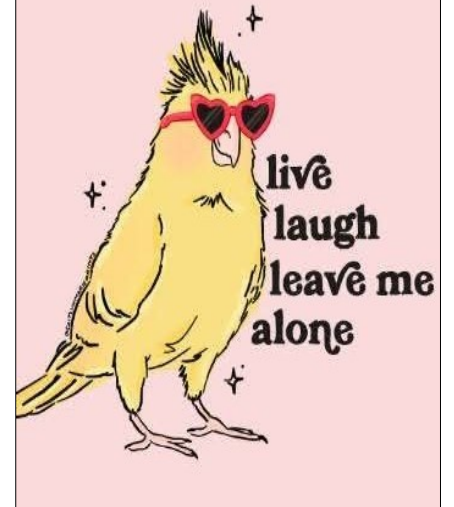
The kitchen I want:



What I'm going to cook in it:



U3A MEMBER AFTER A HEAVY NIGHT OUT



Two aliens landed near the petrol station at the top of Barn Close. (it was 3.00 in the morning and quite a long time ago....) They approached one of the petrol pumps, and one of the aliens addressed it, "Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. Take us to your leader." The petrol pump didn't respond. So the alien repeated the greeting.

Still no response. The alien, annoyed by what he perceived to be the pump's haughty attitude, drew his ray gun, and said impatiently, "Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. How dare you ignore us in this way! Take us to your leader, or I'll fire!"

The other alien shouted to his comrade "No, you don't want to make him mad!" But before he finished his warning, the first alien fired. There was a huge explosion that blew both of them 200 meters into the field opposite where they landed in a heap. When they regained consciousness, the one who fired turned to the other one and said, "What a ferocious creature. It damn near killed us! How did you know it was so dangerous?"

The other alien answered, "If there's one thing I've learned during my travels through the galaxy...any guy who can wrap one of his arms around himself twice and then stick it in his own ear, is someone you should never mess with!"

All contributions for the next newsletter please to
alanborrow1@gmail.com