



MAY 2026 Newsletter

OUR VERY OWN KING CHARLES THIRD FOOTPATH SECTION

You may have read, on 19th March 2026 His Majesty the King inaugurated the King Charles III England Coast Path at Seven Sisters in East Sussex. This Coast Path is not fully completed yet and work continues on the remaining sections that are yet to open. When complete the King Charles III England Coast Path



National Trail will be the longest managed coastal path in the world. It will go all the way around the coast of England and will be around 2,700 miles long. That is some path, and it doesn't end there, in many areas



you will also have the right to explore the beaches and coastal margin alongside the path. It is of course, a hugely varied coast connecting the many coastal towns, cities and ports which have shaped this island nation. It links iconic places and heritage on the coast with the less well-known, and will unlock some parts of our coast for the very first time.

East of us, in West Sussex, the King Charles III England Coast Path is fully open along the entire West Sussex coastline. The trail is well signposted.

Walkers will have seen concrete (!) evidence of some of the work if you have walked west of Emsworth in the past few months. A raised walkway near the bottom of Beach Road, and a new improved section just east of Nore Barn Woods is all designed to “stop us getting our feet wet” at high tide. (in truth, they will still do so at occasional very high tides!) The photos I took this month show the extent of the work, and on the right I feature the ‘awakening’ of a new pond area which The Chichester Wildfowlers and Conservation Association have recently restored.

If this association’s name is new to you, as it was to me – I will enlighten you. Chichester Harbour, with it’s extensive marsh and mudflats is home to a huge number of duck, geese and waders; many migrating from far afield to winter away from the arctic ice. Not surprisingly, they say in their resume, wildfowling has been a tradition at Chichester Harbour for over 350 years; initially as a source of income but now as a leisure activity. The Chichester Wildfowlers’ Association carries on this tradition and helps take care of this remarkable place by managing shooting and through conservation activities. The above photo shows the working party hard at it on a recent weekend. The full advantages of this restoration are now becoming evident and Kingfisher and Heron sightings are frequent!



The photo below shows the results of their labours that weekend, and I am also grateful to Paul Martin for the photos of the kingfishers, the bottom one obviously taken when his beady eye had a sighting and was about to dive! Paul was equipped with tripod and expensive long range camera lens and allowed me to view these birds through the lens. Unlike normal sightings of these colourful birds, they were happy to stay in situ for quite a long time!



No Politics... Oh Go On Then (Just a Little Bit!)

If you've been leafing through the latest national u3a magazine, you may have spotted an article on keeping Politics out of u3a! It seems even in the calmest of waters, the occasional ripple can find its way in! Here at Ems Valley u3a, we like to think of ourselves as a friendly harbour: a place for learning, laughter, and good company. And, by and large, we manage this beautifully—helped in no small part by keeping politics politely parked outside the door.

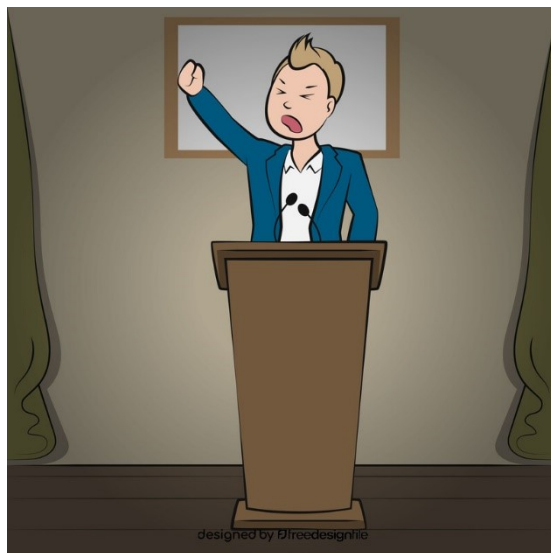
That said, the national guidance (via this recent News and Views update) gives us a helpful nudge rather than a stern warning. The Third Age Trust remains firmly non-political—but not anti-discussion. In fact, it positively encourages members to explore current affairs and even politics, provided it's done in a spirit of curiosity, balance, and—perhaps most importantly—good manners!

This is where it gets interesting for us locally. We already have groups such as Discussion Group One and Discussion Group Two, where lively conversations are very much part of the appeal. Anyone who has attended those groups will know that opinions can be as varied as the biscuit selection—and just as strongly defended! Yet these groups work because they are built on respect, humour, and a shared understanding that nobody is there to win an argument (even if it sometimes feels like it...).

The key idea from u3a nationally is this: politics itself isn't the problem—how we approach it is. A “dispassionate” and “evidence-based” discussion (their words, not mine!) allows members to explore ideas without the temperature rising too high. Think less “Question Time,” more “thoughtful chat over coffee.” Now here's a curious twist. Despite there being over 1,000 u3as across the UK, many of which happily run Current Affairs or Politics groups, Ems Valley u3a does not currently have one at all. Which is, when you think about it, quite unusual!

So the question gently presents itself: should we have one?

Before anyone rushes for the barricades, it's worth remembering what such a group would be about. Not debate for debate's sake, not persuasion, and certainly not falling out over the last biscuit—but a chance to better understand the world around us, share perspectives, and perhaps even change our minds now and then (quietly, of course!). Or perhaps we are perfectly content as we are—keeping politics as an occasional guest rather than a regular resident. Either way, the strength of Ems Valley u3a lies in its members: thoughtful, good-humoured, and refreshingly willing to listen to one another. Long may that continue—whatever we decide. And if a Current Affairs group does appear... well, I'm sure it will be conducted in the very best u3a tradition: lively, friendly, and finished in time for tea. Ideas perhaps for one of our newer members to pick up..... **EDITOR**

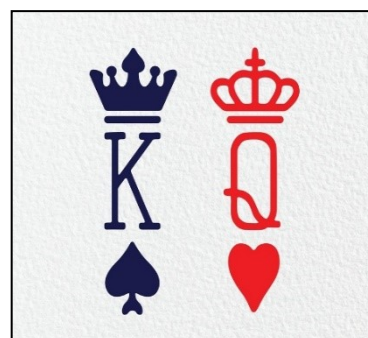


Do you play Bridge?

The Bridge Intermediate 2 Group will be running a second session in addition to its usual Thursday morning slot from May to September in the Emsworth Community Centre between 2 & 4 pm. This will be open to anyone in Ems Valley U3A who would like to play bridge for 2 hours. You do not need a partner to attend as we use whatever movement will fit the number of people present most effectively.

Please contact Nigel Miller via the U3A website at Bridge - Intermediate 2 - Ems Valley if you are interested and not already a member of the group.

Nigel Miller



AD
IVING

“YOU HAVE NO CHANCE”

WARNING TO GERMAN PEOPLE

REICH TO BE BOMBED FROM END TO END

Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, Commander-in-Chief, Bomber Command, warned the people of the Reich in a broadcast message to them last night that the R.A.F. were bombing Germany city by city in order to make it impossible for them to go on with the war. We should pursue our object remorselessly, he said. We and the Americans were going to scourge the Third Reich from end to end unless the people of Germany overthrew the Nazis and made peace.

Sir Arthur Harris said:—

We in Britain know quite enough about air raids. For 10 months your Luftwaffe bombed us. First you bombed us by day. When we made this impossible, they came by night. Then you had a big fleet of bombers. Your airmen fought well. They bombed London for 92 nights running. They made heavy raids on Coventry, Plymouth, Liverpool, and other British cities. They did a lot of damage. Forty-three thousand British men, women, and children lost their lives. Many of our most cherished historical buildings were destroyed.

You thought, and Göring promised you, that you would be safe from bombs. And indeed, during all that time we could only send over a small number of aircraft in return. But now it is just the other way. Now you send only a few aircraft against us, and we are bombing Germany heavily.

Why are we doing so? It is not revenge—though we do not forget Warsaw, Belgrade, Rotterdam, London, Plymouth, and Coventry. We are bombing Germany, city by city, and ever more terribly, in order to make it impossible for you to go on with the war. That is our object. We shall pursue it remorselessly. City by city: Lübeck, Rostock, Cologne, Emden, Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Duisburg, Hamburg—and the list will grow longer and longer. Let the Nazis drag you down to disaster with them if you will. That is for you to decide.

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ON THE LEFT you can read an article from the TIMES that appeared on Wednesday 29th July 1942; our member and past Chairman Richard Swaine kept it for the very reason that it was the date of his birth! But to both Richard and myself, it rang a little bell – just a few days ago, President Trump made a speech in America as below:

“I've made clear from the beginning of Operation Epic Fury that we will continue until our objectives are fully achieved. Thanks to the progress we've made, I can say tonight that we are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly, very shortly. We're going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the Stone Ages where they belong.

In the meantime, discussions are ongoing. Regime change was not our goal. We never said regime change, but regime change has occurred because of all of their original leaders death. They're all dead. The new group is less radical and much more reasonable. Yet if during this period of time, no deal is made, we have our eyes on key targets. If there is no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric generating plants very hard and probably simultaneously. They have no anti-aircraft equipment. Their radar is 100% annihilated.

We are unstoppable as a military force. The nuclear sites that we obliterated with the B2 bombers have been hit so hard that it would take months to get near the nuclear dust, and we have under intense satellite surveillance and control. If we see them make a move, even a move for it, we'll hit them with missiles very hard again.

We have all the cards, they have none.”
Should we compare Bomber Harris with Trump? No replies on a postcard – please!

What about a "Current Affairs" interest group for Ems Valley u3a?

Current affairs interest groups offer significant personal and social benefits. Every u3a which I have read about or been associated with have a Current Affairs group, and it generally appears to be a well supported one! So I asked 'AI' how such a group would benefit members (if it is not already pretty obvious!)

It would boost critical thinking: Members analyse complex global events deeply.

It would broaden perspectives: Diverse discussions challenge personal biases.

It would enhance media literacy: Teaches how to spot fake news.

Builds communication skills: Practice in civil, structured debating.

Combats isolation: Connects people with shared intellectual interests.

Encourages civic action: Inspires local or national community involvement.

Why do these issues matter? They counter:

1. Intellectual Growth

These groups keep your brain active. You learn about economics, history, and culture through a modern lens.

2. Social Connection

They provide a safe space for dialogue. You meet people inside and outside your usual social circle.

3. Informed Citizenship

Members become better-equipped voters. You understand the direct impact of policies on daily life.

This little article may awaken some slumbering ideas? It just needs a potential leader to go and discuss it with our Groups Coordinator, Les Brokenshire. You can reach him via our Ems Valley web site. **Editor**

Garden group visit to Twin Oaks Water Garden, Chandlers Ford - 14th April

A group of 23 of us were very pleasantly surprised to enter this garden which is owned by Syd and Sue Hutchinson and is open to the public under the NGS scheme and also to groups by arrangement. They have developed the garden over the last 35 years and continue to have plans for future changes too.

We were fortunate that it was a sunny, dry morning! It is about one third of an acre; and stretches as far as the eye can see with beautiful mature trees around it. These can be a disadvantage as Syd told us when the leaves drop but they do provide a fine backdrop. The garden is true to its name as it has one large pond immediately outside the covered verandah that Syd built during Covid. This area enabled us all to sit and enjoy coffee and delicious home



made cakes looking out at the rockery and waterfall to the garden beyond. There is another smaller pond further down the garden and several streams, bridges and little waterfalls creating a pleasant tinkling sound of water as you tour around. They have created many different 'scenes' so that each way you turn on the winding paths there is another sitting area with a different vista. There are carefully placed mirrors which



successfully give a trompe l'oeil effect! The planting has a natural feel to it and there were many seasonal plants in flower. It was nice to see most of them named too! They propagate plants from the garden and have quite a variety for sale all in aid of the NGS.

They were a very happy, hospitable couple who have raised almost £36,000 for the NGS since opening their garden. It was a joy to see and spend time there.



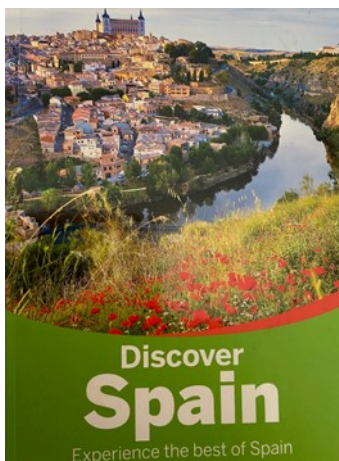
Intermediate Spanish Group closes after nearly 18 years!

Due to a drop in those attending, and with the agreement of members, we have decided to close the Intermediate Spanish Group. It is disappointing after the group has been active for nearly 18 years but ours is a subject at an advanced level, so, we cannot expect any person interested in learning Spanish to just join and 'slot in'. If we were beginners then 'yes' but we are very advanced, and with a meeting schedule of twice a month, each requires about 4 hours preparation. Our average attendance this last year has dropped from 8 to 3 or 4.

Fortunately, some members have found other sources of learning so their knowledge will be maintained. On reflection, ours has always been a very happy group and we have prospered for all this time, worked hard and enjoyed each others company. Our Christmas lunches and trips to Spain will live long in the memory.

Hasta la Vista!

Richard Swaine



Editor: I was fortunate to have been invited to join one of the trips to Spain that they made. Wonderful memories of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and capital of Castilla-La Mancha. It is known as the "City of the Three Cultures" for its historical coexistence of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities. Located on a Tagus River

gorge, the hilltop city features a preserved medieval layout, a massive imposing Alcázar fortress and a stunning Gothic cathedral. I can still remember today the amazing sight before us, as we took early evening drinks on the terrace of the Parador on the adjacent hill: The view of Toledo – laid out before us in the balmy evening sun - is as vivid as though it was yesterday!

STEM April meeting - HACKING – How Hackers Hack

For our April meeting we were led into a state of near panic by Graham Taplin, who had a lifetime's experience in IT systems, his job being partly to ensure hackers couldn't get into his employer's systems. I say "panic" in semi jest – our room was full of over 40 bright people, which showed the interest and concern about this topic. The room became ever quieter as we learned how open to hacking our home systems are (passwords of less than 8 characters aren't worth having). However, the meeting started on a less concerning note as we heard there are Good Hackers, whose job it is to test systems by trying to break in – so the system can be improved.

Why are there Bad Hackers? Well, some just want to challenge themselves, CAN they break in, rather as "can they climb Everest"? For us, it can just be extremely annoying and take up a huge amount of time to sort out. For Companies (think Marks and Spencer last year) it can be devastating, as the hackers hold their entire systems and business to ransom. Graham explained there are free, sophisticated programmes on the market which the good hackers can use to help them test a system. But unfortunately, the same programmes can be used by the evil criminal hackers. They infiltrate multiple areas of a company's computer systems before making their financial demands, which then makes it almost impossible for companies to track down a weakness. North Korea was mentioned, and not in a good way.

Chinese hackers got into the US domestic phone system and were able to listen to almost any conversation. One medium sized successful UK company was completely put out of business by a malware attack on their computer systems. Graham mentioned several huge, ongoing hacks, affecting millions – he believes Salt Typhoon is still on-going worldwide. Question and discussion session after the talk raised many concerns about whether we are doing enough to protect our computers, tablets and smart-phones against hacking and identity theft. We ran out of time and it was clear that we needed a follow-on session to address practical measures like password managers, two-factor authentication and Passkeys.



There was unanimous agreement that we should arrange this follow-up session as soon as it could be fitted into our programme – please see below.

Our next STEM Meeting is May 7th at 2.00pm, usual venue at St James's Hall. Do come and join us for our Workshop Discussion on Protecting Your Computer Against Hacking. All members of Ems Valley U3A are warmly invited. If interested, just let Geoff know, via stem@emsvalleyu3a.org.

60s 70s Music Group



The 60s 70s Music group has had a break over winter but we start up again in May. Come along and join us if you want to tap your feet, shake your hips, wiggle your bums to some 60s 70s music ... or if you just want to reminiscence with fellow lovers of the golden age of rock music. Contact me via the Ems Valley U3A Groups page https://emsvally.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=28534 if you wish to join us. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

Marguerita Taplin

WINE APPRECIATION SIX? IS IT POSSIBLE???.

Les Brokenshire, our Groups Coordinator has received this message from Steve and Jackie, two new members. It is self explanatory! BUT I HOPE THAT THEY SUCCEED! Ems Valley u3a already has more Wine Appreciation groups than any other u3a in the U.K.! If we increase to SIX GROUPS, then the Guinness Book of Records will need altering and Ems Valley will be headlines in "NEWS AND VIEWS". So rise to the occasion winos, write to Steve and Jackie now and be in at the birth of a new group! I believe that they already have members interested!

Dear Members

We have recently joined Ems Valley u3a and were disappointed to find that all your lovely wine groups were full. So with the support of our Group's Coordinator, Les, we have decided to have a go at establishing a 6th wine group.

We would like this group to explore old and new wines in a fun and social environment.

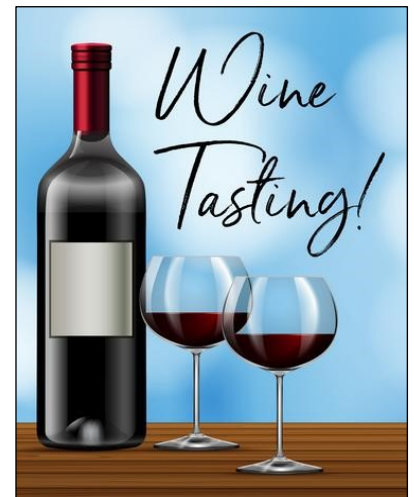
So if you would be interested in joining us please email us at: hensax1@gmail.com

Depending on level of interest, we'll organise an initial meeting to agree how take it forward. Ideas for how we run the group welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Steve and Jackie



The Real Ale Appreciation group

is a newly formed group, and they gave a talk to the monthly meeting after the tea break on Thursday 23rd April. Not only did we learn about the development of real ale and craft beer in the world – though the ages right back to ancient Sumerians, Natufians and Egyptians – but we were then brought up to date and tested on our knowledge of Emsworth pubs, current and thirty years ago! Twenty eight pubs down to a current nine! Their intention, each month, is to gather between 1.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at an agreed local or accessible where real ale is well regarded. We thank Les Brokenshire and Steve Joy for their presentation.

Community First - We are Connected! TRANSPORT FOR OUR GROUPS!



Our Chairman, Tim Mathews writes to advise all members and groups that, through our Ems Valley u3a's subscription to Community First in Fareham, we have a fantastic resource at our fingertips: easy access to a group transport scheme. This membership is more than just a subscription; it's our ticket to getting out into the community, visiting new places, and

ensuring that nobody in our group is left behind due to transport challenges.

Why We Use Community First.

The beauty of this service is that it takes the 'work' out of a day out. Here is why it's such a win for us:

- Professional Drivers: We don't have to worry about finding a volunteer driver or navigating traffic. A professional, vetted driver is provided with the minibuss.
- Accessible for Everyone: Their fleet is designed for comfort and accessibility, meaning those with mobility aids or wheelchairs can travel with the rest of the group easily.
- Shared Journeys: Traveling together in one vehicle is half the fun! It turns the journey itself into a social event.

Planned Outings & Ideas

By using the Community First minibusses, we can organise regular group days out—whether that's a trip to a gallery, a local garden centre, or a lunch date further afield.

Important Note: Because we are a member organisation, we can book these trips at community rates, keeping costs as low as possible for our members.

Have Your Say!

Where would you like to go next? Now that we have the transport sorted, the world (or at least Hampshire!) is our oyster.

If you have a destination in mind for your next group outing, please speak to Tim Mathews or email him at tim.mathews@emsvalleyu3a.org.

COSTS AND HIRE OPTIONS

Booking

- Booking Requirement: You usually need to book at least 24–48 hours in advance, though for group & days out, it's best to book a few weeks ahead to ensure a driver is available.

Group Hire costs

- Mileage Rate: This covers fuel and maintenance. It is typically a 'per mile' charge (often between £0.60 and £1.20 per mile depending on the vehicle size).
- Driver Costs: There is usually an hourly or daily rate for one of their professional drivers.
- Minimum Charge: Most group hires have a minimum session charge, such as a 4 hour morning or afternoon slot.

Vehicle Options

- Accessibility: All buses in the Fareham fleet are equipped with tail lifts or ramps, making them fully wheelchair accessible.
- Capacity: They typically offer 12-seater or 16-seater minibusses. Note that if you have several wheelchair users, the total number of seats decreases to make room for the secure tie-down areas.

BLUEBELLS and PINOT NOIR – on a BICYCLE



Yes, an interesting combination and much enjoyed by U3A CYCLING FOR FUN group on our April monthly ride. From the Recreation Ground in Horndean Road 10 of us set off at a gentle pace through Westbourne going East. We like a mix of tarmac and track and so turned into Cemetery Lane, nice and dry so only the humps and hollows to negotiate and back on tarmac for the quiet country ride up and down the switch-backs at Woodmancote. Then on past Edith's Cottages and downhill to West Ashling for a stop to enjoy the tranquility of the pond in the sunshine and the swans and a lady mallard duck sitting a clutch of furry bundle chicks in a waterside nest; charming.

On from there, past Watery Lane towards our surprise coffee stop at Ashling Park

Vineyard. The coffees and super big cake slices were much enjoyed, we were all relaxing outside overlooking the rows of vines all greening up with their first leaves when, as it was almost eleven o'clock it was a duty to share a bottle of their own Pinot Noir before getting back on our bikes and setting forth in search of our first bluebells. The display of masses of bluebells in Ashling Wood was a delight and we did enjoy a pause to appreciate the flowers, their distinctive scent and the delicate birdsong with the sunlight dappled through the trees.

From Ashling Wood we were off again past the Fox and Hounds in Funtington, up and over Hares Lane with views to Isle of Wight to our left and Adsdean and the Downs to our North. A steep concrete farm track took us up to Racton Manor farm with its ancient granary then through lambing fields into Racton Wood to enjoy another display of bluebells. From there it was bridleway past stables and on to our lunch stop at The Woodmancote pub.



Strangely the group had increased to 12 by the time we sat down! After a leisurely lunch it was a gentle ride back to Emsworth mid afternoon.

Neil Cowell Group Leader

WINE ONE TASTE BLIND!

Blind tasting is difficult because it forces the taster to rely solely on sensory input—smell, taste, and texture—while stripping away all context, such as label, price, and visual cues, which typically guide our evaluation. It turns a subjective experience into a deductive game of "Guess Who"! Many wines can taste similar. Tasters often struggle with confusing acidity with tannin, as both are sharp or astringent, requiring them to know exactly where on their palate they feel each element. Also, the pressure of guessing correctly can lead to second-guessing. It also forces an immediate, objective assessment, which can be humbling.



And so it was at Wine One's tasting on Tuesday 21st April!

Members did not allow for the organiser's trickery in presenting three whites, all Sauvignon Blanc and three Reds – all Cabernet Sauvignon. How dastardly unfair! But it proved a point. The same variety of grape can produce a wine so different in taste and texture depending on where it is grown, the terroir, altitude and the prevailing climate! An interesting and enjoyable exercise!

The St Hubert's Music Series for 2026 at Idsworth

Members of Ems Valley U3A have been offered a special discount to discover the stunning new Music Series at St Hubert's Church. Every month from June, it's a chance to enjoy world class performers across classical music, opera and choral music in one of Hampshire's most remarkable and historic settings. With



its intimate atmosphere and wonderful acoustics, St Hubert's offers the perfect setting for an inspiring and uplifting evening. St Huberts state: "We know how many U3A members value culture, community, lifelong learning and shared experiences. So, we'd love to see many of you join us. As a special offer, you can enjoy 15% off tickets across the season using the UNDERMENTIONED code when booking.

You can book by visiting our website at www.sthubertsmusic.co.uk. We hope to see as many of you as possible for what promises to be some of the most

memorable moments in our church's history."

The discount code to apply when ordering tickets is U3A2026STHUBERT.

A night of classical and folk music for Midsummers Day Eve!

Some of you may have heard my granddaughters, Alice and Juliet Beadle, play at Old Assembly Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre some two years ago. They have now graduated and are studying for a Masters at The Royal College of Music South Kensington, and at Trinity Laban, Greenwich. They are coming to Emsworth on Midsummers Day 7.00pm at the Community Centre. Tickets: £12 on door, £10 in advance from Emsworth Community Centre and Bookends in Emsworth, cash only. (or direct from me of course)



The first half will feature classical music from C.P.E Bach, Claude Debussy, Van Eyck, Itzhak Perlman, Eugene Bozza, Georg Telemann.

In the second half they will be joined by Victoria Lynn to give you ballads that stretch back to the 17th century, celebrating folk in both old and new forms.

You can check out this Folk Trio “The Beadling” by googling [The Beadling Folk](#)

Alan Borrow, your editor and sometime musical Impresario

Play Reading Group 2 - Vacancy still unfilled!

In the April Newsletter, Colin Ottewell advertised a vacancy in his talented play reading group. They recently lost



a male member who had left the area. That vacancy remains as we go to press! This is a unique chance to become a member of a very elite group! Colin stated that they try to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2pm,

at 13 Park Crescent, EMSWORTH PO10 7NT.

Their favourite plays are thrillers and comedies but he says that they are up for anything as long as they all have a good time. So if you'd like to give

them a try, please ring Colin (01243 372924). I have a feeling you might be glad you did.

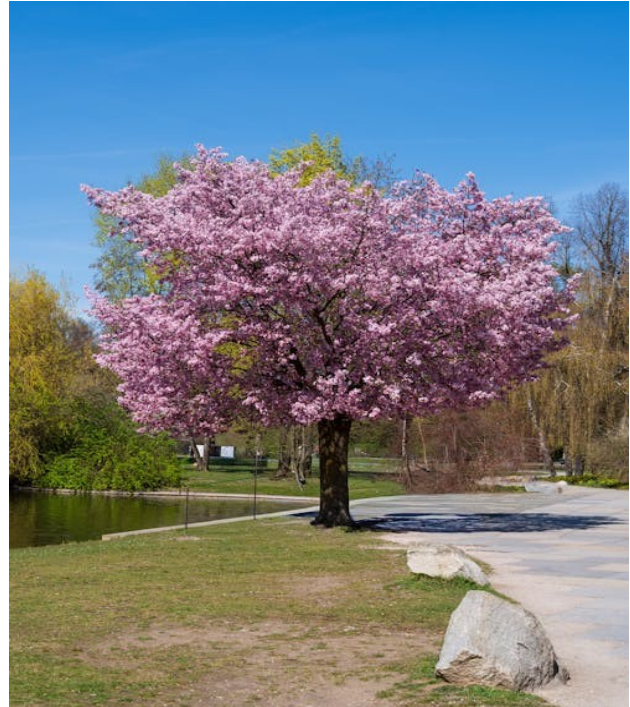
Chairman Tim Mathews helps us to go “AI”

On Friday afternoon 24th April, 22 eager would be Artificial Information enquirers gathered under Tim’s leadership to learn how to use AI to our maximum benefit! We started with Chatbots: using tools like ChatGPT, and Google Gemini, for brainstorming, summarizing text, drafting emails, enquiring how to do or to just reduce a lengthy prose down to a quarter! Yes, it will do anything providing you tell the little box what it is you want and feed enough information in. Master Prompting, he added would improve your results by being specific about the role you want the AI to take, the goal you want to achieve, and the format you need. I think that many of us had experimented with this new medium, but we needed help to go to the next stage.

It is quite remarkable what AI will do for us – all we need is to learn how to harness its power....Thank you Tim! They plan to meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 2.00pm in Mountford Three at the Emsworth Community Centre.

Editor

Two signs that tell us SPRING IS HERE!



Other u3a's have a TEA DANCE group! An idea for EMS VALLEY?

It's the Sunday tea dance and they'll all be here today.
Aches and pains forgotten, to dance the afternoon away.
Foxtrots, quicksteps, waltzes some are slow, but some still nifty,
with memories of how it was way back in nineteen fifty.
Norman's in the toilet and he's struggling to pee,
He's got trouble with his prostate, and he'll likely miss his tea.
Eddie's got a new love that he met with John and Keith,
She does a lovely tango, but she hasn't any teeth.
His latest fancy footwork nearly broke his partner's neck,
She took his outside swivel for a travelling contra check.
Ida's had her hair done and she's ready for the saunter.
She had a vindaloo last night and it's coming back to haunt her,
Florrie's mini skirt's revealing when she's spinning in the jive
She really shouldn't wear a thong, approaching eighty five.
They've had their tea and cake and chat and had a little laugh,
And gamely rise with creaking knees to face the second half.
Norman's made it back in time for rumba number one,
His cucaracha's very neat, but he's left his flies undone.
Vera's fallen over in a massive crimplene heap,
Bert's got indigestion and Mabel's fast asleep.
It's last waltz time and up they get for Humperdinck's old tune,
And then, 'Goodbye, good luck, take care, God willing see you soon.'

With thanks to Gillian from a u3a out there.....

Hello

As you know, we are planning to celebrate 20 years of Ems Valley u3a on Friday 3 July 2026.


To mark the event, the organising committee has suggested that there is a celebration cake. We were wondering if there is a talented member who would like to make it? The design of the cake would be of your choosing and the costs of the ingredients would be re-imbursed. It would be good to see a nod to the u3a colours (blue and yellow) somewhere on the cake.

If anyone is able to help us, kindly contact Andrea Brokenshire (Committee Member) on les.brokenshire@talktalk.net at your earliest convenience.

Your help with the cake would be very much appreciated

Thank you. Rod (Vice Chair Ems Valley U3A Committee)

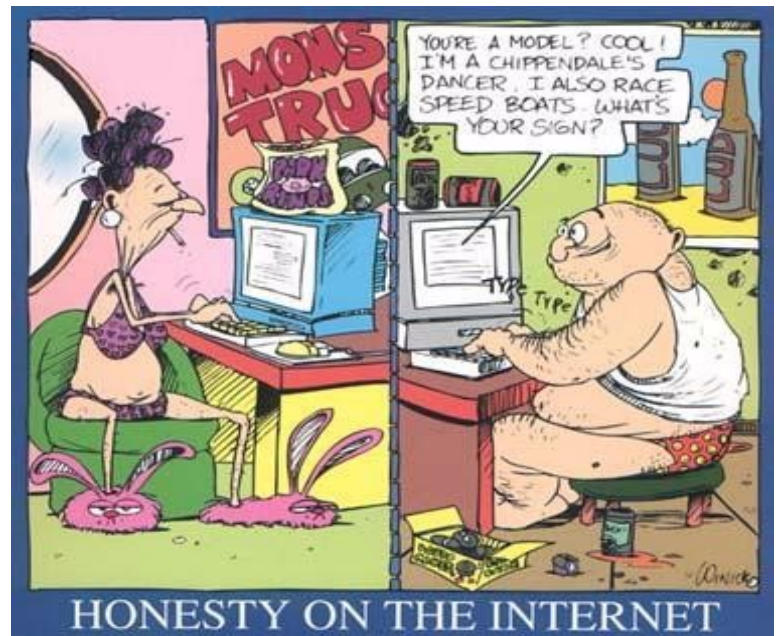
A guy is sitting at a bar talking to the bartender about relationships. "You know being married sure makes life interesting", he says. I really Love my wife and she loves me in return. "She cares so much that she washes my clothes in the old fashioned way. She wets them, rubs them with soap, then hits them with large rocks. Next week, I am going to take them off first,,,"



Instead of the John I call my bathroom the Jim!
That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning!!!

Sandra didn't think this was a very balanced diet!





Old Jake had cut firewood by hand with a handsaw for a living going on 50 years. He averaged about four cords a day. His son was home from college and watching him work remarked, "You could probably cut 10 times as much if you bought yourself a chainsaw."

"Not interested in those new fangled things," Jake responded.

His son returned to college and Jake began to think that maybe the young guy was right; his old body seemed to ache more and more at the end of the day. So he went into town and bought a brand new top-of-the-line chainsaw.

The first couple days were not very productive--he only cut one cord each day. By the third day he had cut 3 cords but was dead tired. "This is not working," he thought to himself, "My son said I should be able to cut 10 cords a day. I'm taking this stupid thing back."

The next day he was in the hardware store complaining to the sales clerk about his lack of production. "Blade seems a little dull, but not that bad. Let's start it up," the clerk muttered as he pulled the starting cord.

"What the hell is that noise?" Jake hollered.

A cab driver reaches the pearly gates.

St. Peter looks him up in his Big Book and tells him to pick up a gold staff and a silk robe and proceed into Heaven. Next in line is a preacher.

St. Peter looks him up in his Big Book, furrows his brow and says, "OK, we'll let you in, but take that plain cloth robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is shocked and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely I rate higher than a cabbie!"

St. Peter responds matter-of-factly,

"This is Heaven and up here, we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabbie drove his taxi, people prayed."

**All contributions for the next newsletter please to:
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