



JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Rod takes the reins over from Tim!

I asked Rod Lipscombe to pen a few words for us all upon his becoming our Chair. ED."

As I hope you will know by now, I took over as Chairman of Ems Valley U3A at the May AGM. Many of you will have met me at Monthly Meetings in my former role as Vice-Chairman and Speaker Secretary. Some of you will also know me as a member of the Ancient Greece, Wine 5 and Real Ale groups. I hope to have the privilege of meeting more of you over the next 3 years.

My wife, Sarah, and I moved here nearly 5 years ago. Sarah was a teacher and I was a senior manager in a Local Education Authority. I am, at present, a Family Court magistrate on the Sussex Bench, although that will finish at the end of this year when I reach the compulsory retirement age of 75.

We joined Ems Valley U3A soon after we moved here and found it a very welcoming and friendly place. I think that it is one of our main strengths. We are also a very vibrant and successful organisation, with over 500 members and a wide variety of groups. However, we cannot rest on our laurels and we must continually look forward to ways in which we can develop and improve our offer to you, our members. Our motto "by members, for members" is not an empty slogan but the essence of what we do.

I am fortunate to have inherited a very strong and focused committee – and, in line with our motto, we are all members. Nevertheless, we do have space for a couple of additional committee members. If you are interested and would like to contribute to planning the way forward, please contact me at the email address below.

I value highly our monthly meetings. These are a great opportunity to hear interesting speakers (I hear you thinking "he would say that" as I have been sourcing the speakers for the past couple of years) and also to socialise at the tea interval. I know there are good reasons why many of you do not attend but I would like to take this opportunity to encourage more of you to at least try a monthly meeting.

The committee and I will welcome any suggestions from you about what we can improve or add to what Ems Valley U3A can offer. I can assure you that any suggestions will be considered carefully by the committee.



Rod Lipscombe chairman@emsvalleuyu3a.org

AGM 2026: New Faces, Fond Farewells and Vegetables Behaving Badly

Our AGM in May saw the end of an era and the beginning of a new one as Tim Mathews reflected on three rewarding years as Chairman before handing over the chain of office to former Vice-Chairman Rod Lipscombe. Tim thanked the many people who help keep Ems Valley u3a flourishing, from committee members and group leaders to volunteers working quietly behind the scenes. With around 53 active groups, our organisation remains as vibrant as ever. The meeting also marked a committee reshuffle, with a mixture of leavers, joiners and movers. Business Secretary Dbee Robinson and Minutes Secretary Liz Rosoman are stepping down, with thanks for their valued service. Carolyn Joy joins as Business Secretary, while Steve Joy becomes a Trustee. Andrea Brokenshire takes on the role of Vice-Chairman and Speaker Secretary, Karen Rodger swaps Beacon duties for the Minutes Secretary role, and Les Brokenshire adds Beacon to his tasks. Tim may be leaving the Chairmans' seat, but he will still be keeping an eye on things as Webmaster and IT Administrator. Sue Kent continues to look after membership, while Hilary Street remains our trusted Treasurer, keeping a watchful eye on the pennies so the rest of us can enjoy the pounds!



Dbee looked back on her time as Business Secretary with warmth and gratitude, thanking members, committee colleagues and Tim for their support. She may be retiring from the role, but not from u3a life, and will soon be learning the ropes from newsletter editor Alan Borrow.



Members approved the Treasurer's Report, the Trustee Report, the Minutes of the previous AGM and the appointment of examiner David Griffiths. The business of the AGM was therefore completed with commendable efficiency and only minimal paper cuts. In his first address as Chairman, Rod thanked members for electing him, while jokingly wondering quite what he had let himself in for. He praised Ems Valley u3a for its welcoming atmosphere, thriving groups and continued growth, and reminded everyone that this year marks our organisation's 20th anniversary. Members are warmly invited to join the celebrations on 3 July. Thanks were also given to all the groups who have stepped up to provide refreshments at the monthly

meetings

throughout the year. Keeping members supplied with tea, coffee and biscuits remains one of the u3a's most valued public services! After refreshments came a fascinating and entertaining talk from **Martyn Cox on The Secret History of Vegetables**. Members learned that the famous claim that carrots improve night vision was actually wartime propaganda designed to disguise the invention of radar. We also discovered that globe artichokes were once considered such powerful aphrodisiacs that women were banned from eating them in the 16th century. Suddenly the vegetable patch seems a far more exciting place than most of us had imagined.

Dates for the diary: the Christmas Lunch will be held at Chichester College on 3 December 2026, and the next AGM takes place on 27 May 2027.

Dbee Robinson

Garden Group trip to Oxford Botanic Garden and city - 9th June 2026

A group of 48 of us went on a very enjoyable day out to this botanic garden which is the oldest in the UK, having been formed in 1621. It comprises over 5000 plant species and has supported medical study at Oxford University since that time. It is quite unique and its location bordering the River Cherwell makes it a perfect place to enjoy the varied aspects of botanic study as well as the serenity and peace that gardens bring. It comprises many sections of walled garden with plants from around the world, a literature inspired area including a poisonous plant attributed to Agatha Christie and many medicinal plants from which we derive medications still used today. We admired the long, herbaceous borders, which will be even more impressive later on in the summer and the glasshouses with their spectacular pitcher plants, cacti and water lilies in a large circular pond. Small colourful tropical fish (guppies) could be seen swimming near the surface.



The garden was a welcome contrast to the vibrancy of the city. Oxford is such a wonderful, historic and cultural city that one cannot help but be absorbed by its feel of warmth from the sandstone buildings and be entranced by the very impressive architecture of the museums and college buildings. After the garden visit many of us took the short walk to the centre of the city and had glimpses of the fine colleges together with the very lovely Ashmolean Museum galleries which are so thoughtfully presented in a manner designed to appeal everyone.

It was hard to choose which places to visit on a day trip with such a richness of choice but we all had a good overview of the wonderful city and look forward to a further visit in the future. More pics below.

Diana Faithfull



June STEM meeting – A Tale of Two Islands, North and South, New Zealand, their Geological Aspects

For our June meeting we were given a talk by Roger Kevern, who was a chemist by profession, but Roger also has a



deep interest in geology. A visit to New Zealand gave him extra enthusiasm to learn more and he shared some of that knowledge with us. The two islands of New Zealand have a lot in common geologically, but also distinct differences, caused by the effect of the Pacific Ring of Fire. The Pacific Ring of Fire is a major 25,000-mile horseshoe-shaped geological belt that wraps around the edges of the Pacific Ocean. It is the most seismically and volcanically active zone on Earth, home to approximately 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes and the source of about 90% of all global earthquakes. Where it reaches New Zealand, at the North Island, the Pacific Plates are underneath. At the South Island the Plates are on top. This has the effect on the North Island of creating rolling hills, lots of extinct volcanoes, and powerful geysers spraying high in the air. **Left, you can see the "Prince of Wales Feathers 'blow'!**

We saw slides of many interesting stones which are found there, some comprising a wide array of coloured minerals. (Jade, Nephrite is pictured above)

No wonder Peter Jackson decided to film the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings there. A three-and-a-half-hour ferry ride away takes you to South Island, where the northern end of it has an average of 52 earthquakes a year! Again, we saw slides of the stones to be found there including Greywacke, very soft sandstone – and Jade, all of which is owned by the Maoris, who are happy to sell it. We ended up at the very southern end of South Island, looking at Granite. As you can tell Roger's talk was very interesting – and he clearly loves his hobby. He even brought lots of samples of rocks for us to pore over! He showed us a photo of the Warakei Geothermal Power Station (**see under**) and here the scheme is based on tapping a vast underground water system that has been heated by very hot, perhaps molten, rocks. Steam is produced by drilling to release the great pressure on the very hot water, causing it to boil. The boiling water-steam mixture is brought to the surface and separated, with the "dry" steam piped to the power station's turbines and the hot water discharged into silencers where a drop in atmospheric pressure causes some of it to flash into the large clouds of steam, producing the spectacular displays seen in the steam fields!

Our next STEM Meeting is July 2nd at 2.00pm, usual venue at St James's Hall.

Do come and join us for our next talk, details of the content will be circulated soon. All members of Ems Valley U3A are warmly invited. If interested, just let Geoff know, via

stem@emsvalleyu3a.org.

Pam Palmer



To Oxford with the Garden Group

You will read above Diana Faithfull's beautifully illustrated article on the Oxford Botanical Garden visit in June. I am not a member of the Gardens group but when she advertised the trip to those outside their group, I quickly added my name!

A sincere thank you to Diana Faithfull, leader of our Gardens Group, for organising this very successful coach trip. To ensure the 48-seat coach was fully occupied, Diana kindly extended the invitation to the wider Ems Valley membership, and many members were delighted to take up the opportunity. While the gardeners enjoyed the Botanical Gardens, others chose to explore Oxford's beautiful colleges and visit the Ashmolean Museum after a brief look around the gardens.

The day was exceptionally well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We know that arranging trips of this kind involves a great deal of planning and hard work, and we are extremely grateful to Diana for the professional and efficient way she manages them! **Ed**

Birthday Bonanzas

'U3a Matters' ran an article on how to celebrate a special birthday in style, or something really different! Did you read it this month?

There were eight suggestions for landmark birthdays, all very different and included a Barge holiday on a canal, A dance party with the lady's Line Dancing group and a surprise murder mystery week end for friends in a local hotel. There were no suggestions from Ems Valley u3a but I am sure there have been some enterprising ideas for your special 60th, 70th, 80th or more! Can you tell us more..... Ideas to the editor for the next edition please. Either special birthdays that have been enjoyed in the past, ideas for the future or maybe fantasy ideas that are just in dreamtime!



Politics in u3a

The u3a movement is strictly non-party-political, but encourages robust educational debate on domestic and international politics. Members can explore current affairs, policy, and political theory in peer-led discussion groups rather than engaging in political campaigning or endorsing candidates. In Ems Valley we have discussion groups which no doubt cover politics now and then depending on the current news, (and there is plenty at present!). However the Summer issue of 'u3a Matters' listed two interesting replies to an article which CEO Iain Cassidy wrote on this subject in the Spring edition. These were quite different in nature but show how u3a can have a useful voice in politics:

Martin Vlietstra at Fleet and District u3a leads their Science and Technology group and was concerned that the engineering profession is grossly under represented in Parliament. He noted that their MP was a practising engineer and invited her to come and talk to their u3a on "The Role of an Engineer in Parliament". To his delight, she accepted but rather than give a talk, she requested that their questions be submitted to her two weeks prior. Martin said that this was done and "since the meeting was centred around engineering rather than party agenda, we had an informative afternoon, and I hope that she was able to benefit from the feedback that she received from us!"

The other reply was from Ravina Talbot of the Isle of Man u3a. As you may know, the Isle of Man is a self-governing Crown Dependency with its own parliament, laws, and tax system. It is not part of the United Kingdom, and UK laws do not apply unless explicitly agreed upon by the island's government. U3a members there were upset about an article in their local press about older members of the community threatening the Isle's economic future. So, in their words, "We challenged the Manx government regarding their ageist language used both in the article and in debate" They followed up with research and were able to present facts that disproved that older people were a burden on the Manx economy. Ravina went on to say that they then saw a significant change in the language used by their government and media when referring to older people. They are now assisting the local hospital to remove the "Frailty Ward" sign and their Minister of Health has agreed that it sends out the wrong message!

Ems Valley Ex Chairman promotes CRICKET IN BELGIUM!

Some of you may know that Richard Swaine worked in Brussels for two separate periods in the 1980s. His love of CRICKET was the reason why he set about promoting the game there, and eventually forming a cricket club named "12 STARS CRICKET CLUB". He probably would not have succeeded had he not obtained the help and backing of the British Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, who was made president of the 12 Stars Cricket Club of Tervuren.

Founded in 1989 and subsequently recognized by the Belgian Cricket Federation, their ground was/is at Stars Arena Hofstade. The club operates as a multinational, not-for-profit organization fielding multiple men's, women's, and junior teams in the now 'Belgian Cricket League'.

In late 2025, the Belgian Cricket Federation teamed up with private sports management firm Destino Legends Sports LLC to birth **EUT20 Belgium**, the continent's very first professional franchise T20 cricket league. The 10 day tournament took place from the 6th June to 14 June 2026. All 18 scheduled matches took place at a single, centralized venue the 12 Stars Cricket Club in Hofstade, Zemst, situated just outside Brussels.

The five foundation clubs competing for the historic title were Akcel United Brussels, Antwerp Anchors, Ghent Gladiators, JB Bruges, Liège Red Lions.

The league made immediate global headlines by appointing World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan as its official Global Brand Ambassador. The teams themselves featured an unbelievable mix of legendary veterans and active short-format mercenaries drafted alongside mandatory domestic Belgian qualifiers.

Elite players like Proteas icon Faf du Plessis, Chris Lynn, Corey Anderson, Shoaib Malik, the West Indies powerhouse Andre Russell and David Wiese joined English stars Alex Hales, and Jason Roy.

Richard Swaine was encouraged by his son, Andrew to put in an appearance! Little did he know that word quickly got out that the former cricketer (of 1989 fame) was to attend... So explains the above picture!

Richard's time at the tournament was not only spent watching the game, his autograph was a constant call! He was not used to this celebrity status and humbly stated to me on his return: "It was like being with Alice in Wonderland!"

Those perceptive members amongst you will note the ever large RICHARD filling the back and the front of the drop head Bentley coupe and perhaps smell a red ball rat. OK, but it set the scene, and many at the tournament made a tremendous fuss of Richard and he was asked to sign every imaginable autograph on every imaginable surface! Who won the tournament – GHENT GLADIATORS as the poster above shows.

Since he has been back in Emsworth, not one request for an autograph..... **Editor**



Book Club NUMBER ONE – June Meeting

Persuasion by Jane Austen - Reviewed by Keith Davies

For our June meeting, the Book Club turned its attention to *Persuasion*, the final novel completed by Jane Austen before her death. Judging by the discussion around the table, Austen certainly finished her literary career on a high note, with the majority of members awarding the book a very respectable 4 out of 5.

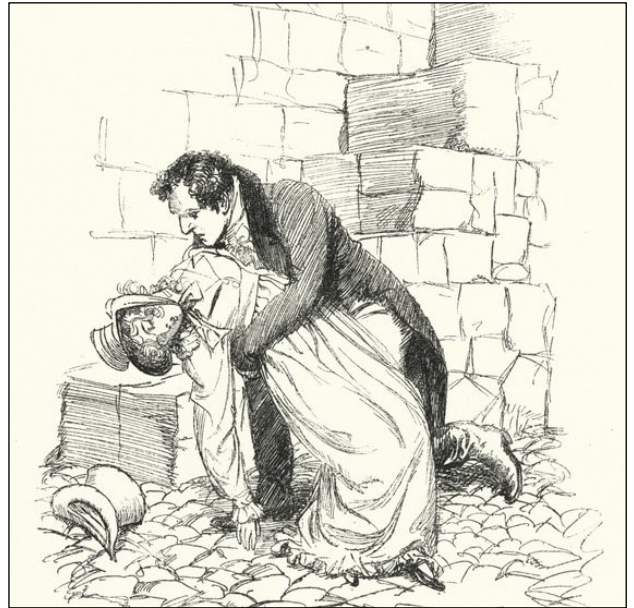
I thoroughly enjoyed the novel myself, although I must admit that at times I found some of the language a little "over-flowery" for modern tastes. As I worked my way through the pages, I could almost picture Jane Austen herself sitting by the light of an oil lamp, quill in hand, carefully crafting each sentence in the early years of the nineteenth century. The elegance of her prose is undeniable, even if it occasionally demands a little patience from today's reader!

The very next day, an interesting contribution came from Ronnie Tyler, who presented an AI-assisted appraisal of the novel. Members agreed that it captured many of the book's themes and qualities remarkably well and provided an enjoyable addition to our discussion.

Elizabeth, drawing on both her French heritage and her years living in England, observed that the French tend to be rather more direct in their choice of words than Austen's characters. This sparked an entertaining conversation about changing styles of communication and how social conventions influence language.

Lynn, Susie, Carleton and Don were united in their view that *Persuasion* was an excellent novel on which Austen could conclude her writing career. The themes of second chances, enduring love and personal growth clearly resonated with the group.

One point on which everyone agreed was the unfortunate social reality reflected in the story: that a prospective groom was expected to possess both position and wealth before being considered "the right man". Thankfully, society has moved on in many respects since those days, although the discussion reminded us just how powerful social expectations can be. Overall, **Persuasion** proved to be a rewarding read and generated a lively and thoughtful discussion. It remains a fitting testament to Jane Austen's enduring talent and a worthy final chapter in her remarkable literary legacy.



SUNDAY LUNCH ON THE BUS

Our inaugural June meeting was at The Traveller's Joy in Southbourne. We all enjoyed our delicious meals, mostly Sunday Roasts, though the portions – even "small" portions – were too large for anyone to clear their plates!



We were blessed with good weather and punctual

buses, so waiting for the bus wasn't a problem.

It was lovely to meet new people or to renew acquaintance with people we meet in other Groups but rarely have time to chat to for long. We're already looking forward to our July get-together – where, is yet to be decided. **Ann Sims – Group Leader**



Day Trippers visit Surrey Sculpture Park

On Wednesday 10th June, 11 members of the Day Trippers Group made an outing to the Surrey Sculpture Park in Churt near Farnham in Surrey. We travelled independently (with some car sharing) and, by prior arrangement, met up in the Bel and Dragon hotel for coffee. Once everyone was adequately revived we crossed over the road to the Park's entrance to begin our tour. After buying our tickets, we all agreed that it would be impossible to stay together as a group of 11, so we all went our separate ways with route maps supplied by the park.

The park is sited within 10 acres of woodland, lakes, streams and walkways accommodating over 600 ever changing sculptures on exhibition from over 200 well-known and upcoming sculptors, throughout 2 miles of trails.

The Sculpture Park has one of the finest and most extensive collections of sculpture and artists in the UK. As can be seen from the photos

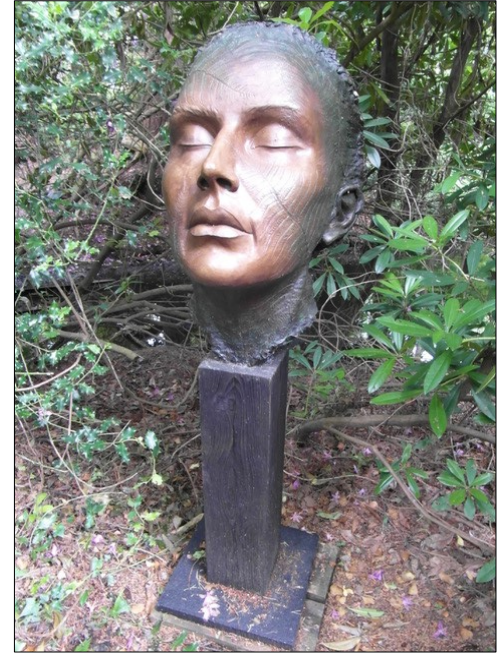
the exhibits are made from different materials including bronze, marble, granite, glass, timber, copper, slate steel and stone. There is a complete variety of designs - some traditional, some contemporary and some abstract - something for everyone's tastes.

Whilst all the sculptures are available for sale, hire with free delivery, no one was tempted to make a purchase!



After a couple of hours in the Park we retired back to the Bel and Dragon for an enjoyable lunch with lots of opinions being expressed and views exchanged about we had all seen in the Park. After lunch we made our way back to Emsworth in the pouring rains having been blessed with dry weather in the morning. **Simon Winslow**





Local Farming in the early twentieth century

On Friday 5 June, many members of our U3A Local History Group attended a very interesting talk given by Alan Borrow, commencing with maps showing the Forest of Bere, an ancient forest used as a Royal hunting place by Saxon Kings and subsequent Kings until the reign of Charles 1. This forest stretched from Emsworth in the East to Droxford in the West.

Deforestation took place after the 1810 Enclosure Act, which freed land and enabled small farms to flourish. We then moved to farming in the 1900's and particularly three farms in the Waterlooville/Cowplain area owned by members of Alan's family including his Uncle Archibald of whom we were to hear shortly. Farming in those days used manual labour and

whole families helped with the haymaking which was relied on as winter feed for the cattle. Transport was by horse and cart and heavy horses were used for ploughing. We looked at early farming methods for other agricultural work, mowing, binding, threshing etc. Most farms were mixed – dairy and



crops. Arch who was born in 1893 trained at the early agricultural college at the old BASING FARM SCHOOL. This was Hampshire's first Farm School and was established in 1899 at Lower Mill Farm in Old Basing, and served as the precursor to Sparsholt College. He was a confirmed bachelor with a love of adventure and volunteered for service when War broke out in 1914 when he was sent to France with the Veterinary Corps. Eventually he became bored with this work and volunteered for action during the battle for Arras where he was soon injured and repatriated to

an English hospital, with shrapnel in his head. (probably saved his life!) Peace was declared and Arch returned to farming in the Waterlooville area where his veterinary experience came in useful and when farming was still very labour intensive. ***Pic above shows Arch on the right doing the family milk round, while Stewart Borrow (Alan's Father) sits in the cart!*** At that time, Waterlooville was a very small town with very little traffic and a few houses along the main road which led to Cowplain.

Arch's father (Alan's grandfather) was a district Councillor and made a monthly trip to Emsworth for the Warblington and District Council meetings held in the building now housing Emsworth Museum, by pony and trap.

Cowplain, so-called because cows wandered frequently along the road, was a village where there was a farm at the end of Padnell Road which was the family headquarters in the middle of the extensive woodland. This farm and surrounding land was owned by a family who had made bricks there for a century and a half. They were the Dotterills and the clay was very suitable for brickmaking. Arch's grandfather had married Eliza Dotterill. Much later, the farmhouse was rebuilt and eventually became known as Padnell Grange and during the 1970's was owned by Alan's Uncle Ed who was involved in a Charity promoting fluoridation of milk for schoolchildren to avoid teeth decay.

Arch retired in 1960 to a bungalow in Horndean.

In 1993, at the age of 90 he returned with Alan, to France during which time they sought out a French farmer friend of 1915 (a supplier of the alfalfa crop used to feed the horses). He located the farmer's home and was remembered mainly by the daughter who would have been about 8 years old when Arch knew her in World War One. An emotional reunion followed. After that visit Arch and Alan visited the War Cemeteries, Arch being more focused on the names on the splendid War Memorials rather than walking amongst the beautifully kept graves.



Arch captioned "Arras - Lens front "
(photo dated 19th April 1982)

Arch passed away aged 99 and three quarters, and just short of his 100th birthday, at his home in Horndean after a long, eventful life.

Above: Arch revisiting the village of OPPY where he remembered the fierce trench warfare that took place there during the Battle of Arras.

June Abel

A Major Recruitment Drive at Newsletter HQ!

After seven or eight years of producing the Ems Valley u3a Newsletter single-handedly, I have some exciting news. The Newsletter has acquired an extra member for the editorial staff! Until now, the entire editorial department has consisted of just one person – your Editor. Every issue, published faithfully on the last day of every month, has involved collecting articles, gently reminding contributors (sometimes more than gently!), proofreading (sometimes too quickly), laying out the pages and pressing the "Send" button.

It's been a labour of love and, judging by the comments I receive, one that many members enjoy reading, even if some say they only read it for the jokes!

However, even the largest publishing empires occasionally need to expand, so I am delighted to welcome Dbee Robinson as our very first Editorial Assistant. The title may sound grand, but any extra pair of eyes, fresh ideas and occasional nudge in the right direction will be greatly appreciated. Many of you, who know Dbee because of her creative and artistic background, will envisage the scope that this appointment will bring to the newsletter.

I hope you'll join me in making **Dbee** feel welcome. Who knows? With two of us involved, the Newsletter may become an even slicker operation—or at the very least there'll be a choice of who to blame for the odd typo!

As always, I'd like to thank everyone, group leaders and any Ems Valley member, who contributes articles, photographs and ideas. Without your input there wouldn't be much of a newsletter to edit.

If you're new to Ems Valley u3a, or simply fancy a trip down memory lane, don't forget that every edition published over the past seven or eight years is available on our website. Just visit **Ems Valley u3a**, click on **Newsletters**, and browse through the archive.

Thank you all for your continued support—and here's to the next chapter in the 'illustrious history' of our now two-person editorial team!

Alan Borrow Editor



Local History are arranging a visit to Parham House & Gardens 7th August.

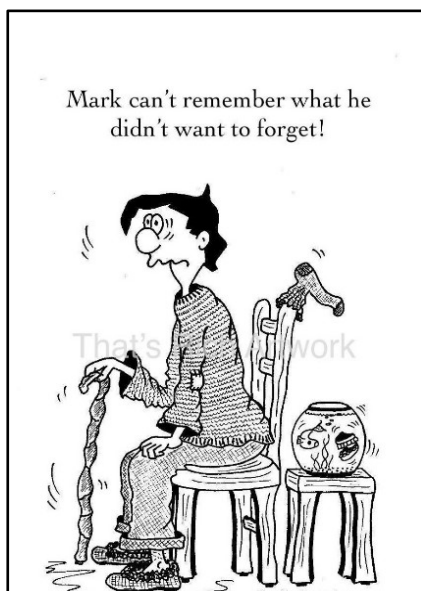
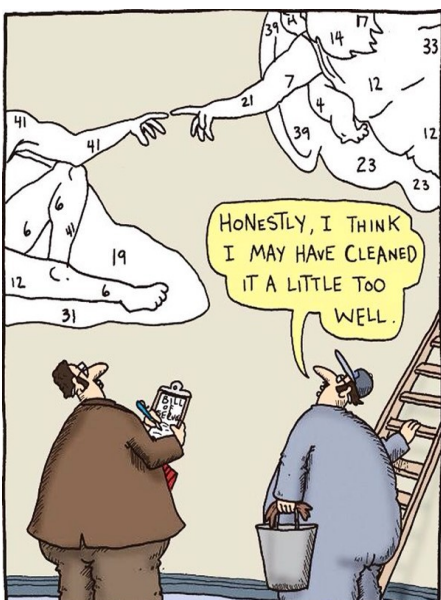
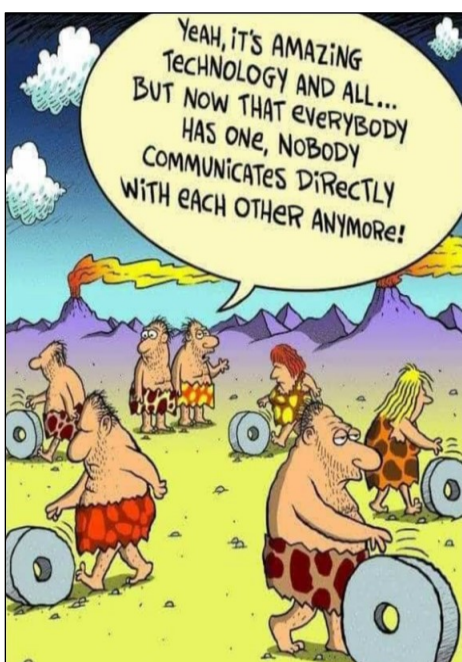
Parham House is one of the top twenty in Simon Jenkins's book 'England's Thousand Best Houses'. Idyllically set in the heart of an ancient deer park, below the South Downs, the Elizabethan house contains an important collection of needlework, paintings and furniture. The spectacular Long Gallery is the third longest in England. The gardens include a four-acre Walled Garden with stunning herbaceous borders, plus Pleasure Grounds. Parham has always been a well-loved family home, and only three families have lived here since its foundation stone was laid in 1577. Its tranquillity and timeless beauty have changed little over the years. Now owned by a charitable trust, the house is lived in by Lady Emma Barnard, her husband James and their family.

Local History need five more attendees to qualify for the group discount on offer for entry to house and gardens incl. the guided tour of the House. Our Daytrippers group went here a little while ago and really enjoyed their day. Apart from the guided tour of the house you will have access to the beautiful Pleasure Grounds, a four-acre Walled Garden, herbaceous borders, a historic greenhouse, vegetable garden, orchard, and a 1920s Wendy House. Anyone in Ems Valley interested in making up our numbers? Please email Reg Newnham SAP at reg@newnham.eu. Entry and private tour of house £22.00 (Car travel approx. 37 mins)



So there was one this guy named Ghandi and he used to walk around barefoot which caused the skin on his feet to become rather thick and calloused. He also went on a lot of hunger strikes which caused him to become very thin and fragile. He was also very religious, some would even say mystical. His hygiene was quiet poor and he always had halitosis. So I guess you could say he was a "Super calloused, fragile mystic, cursed with halitosis."

This young blonde decided she wanted to pay off all her bills. She started going door to door on her estate, asking if anyone needed any jobs done for a little money. She knocks on her first door. An elderly man answers. "Hello. I m trying to make some extra money to pay off bills. Do you have any odd jobs you need done" The old man replies, "Well, you can paint the porch". She jumps for joy and says 'Great! How much will you pay? " Is a hundred pounds OK?', said the old man. " The paint, rollers, and brushes are in the garage. Knock on the door when you're done and I will pay you ". The old man goes back inside as the young blonde bounds off to the garage. " Does that poor girl know our porch wraps around the whole of the house?" asks the old man's wife. " Of course she does, she was outside with me. Just at that moment there was a knock at the door. The old man opens it to find a smiling face, "I'm done." she said. "And I had sufficient paint to give it two coats! By the way, that's a Toyota not a Porsche!"



DON'T FORGET! informal drop in social event to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Ems Valley U3A.

Friday 3 July 2026 **Time:** Between 2pm and 4:30pm

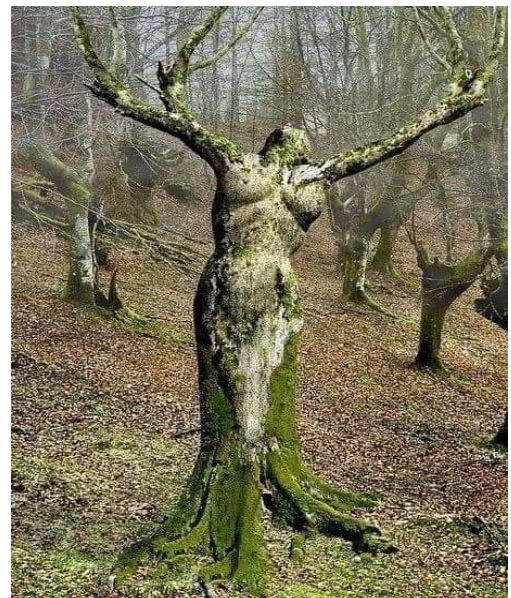
***Where:* Emsworth Community Garden North Street Next to the doctors' surgery**

At about 3pm there will be a short cake-cutting ceremony to mark the anniversary. We will propose, and provide, a toast and offer a slice of cake.

You are most welcome to bring your own refreshments, drinks, picnic etc. but please take back any empties or other remains and packaging.



Spooky trees.....



Letter to the Editor:

Following the article in the June Newsletter: " New Faces, New Friends, New Energy - but are we doing our bit....."

Jane Macswayne writes: thank you for this - interestingly I came to the AGM for the first time and found everyone to be very friendly. Exactly what you have discussed in the newsletter happened when I was getting a coffee - a very lively lady said oh is this your first meeting do you want to grab a seat which we did, sure somebody else may have said the same but it was a very kind gesture. Now I just have to get to some of these groups!! Jane Macswayne

All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

alanborrow1@gmail.com