

## Newsletter Early 2025



*Mullet enjoying the sun in Peter Pond*

## Chairman's Chat – Summer 2025



Welcome to this Summer 2025 Newsletter for the Emsworth and District u3a. I hope that you will all find some items of interest to you whether you are a member of our u3a or not.

Newsletters are invariably a time for the Chairman to express thanks. We are a voluntary organisation and utterly dependent upon the good will and efforts of numerous individuals. Firstly I must thank Toni Reynaud as the editor, the pleader, the reminder, and the one that finally pulls the Newsletter together. It is a labour for sure; I hope that it is a labour of love!

Then there are the individuals that assist in readying the hall for our monthly meetings. Doors have to be opened, coffee, tea and biscuits prepared, chairs and tables put out, windows opened and the welcoming desk established to ensure we know who and how many are with us that month. And the little labels that we ask you to stick on yourselves

that tell me who I am speaking to when the name is rattling around somewhere inside my head but not quite making it into memory. Quite often these sticky labels even stay sticky and don't fall onto the floor...

Special mention must be made of the Really Useful Group – the RUG. They are a stalwart addition to our team and have a knack of knowing what needs to be done and when. Finally, of course, your Committee. These folk do so much to organise all our events and meetings. The year to date has been a little harder than most years. We could not encourage an Events Member to come forward to serve on the Committee. We had one visit organised by our previous Events Member but no more will be organised this year. Additionally all the little things that are needed are now done by a smaller group increasing the workload just that little bit. As you are no doubt guessing, we will shortly be starting the process of looking for future volunteers, which will include a replacement for me as I will have completed the constitution specified three years in early 2026.

In recognition of the service provided by so many volunteers, we did have the usual very enjoyable Volunteers Lunch at the end of January. Also I mentioned earlier that we did have one visit, which was to Bletchley Park. It was organised jointly with the Ems Valley u3a. It is an utterly fascinating venue and story. It was very much appreciated by attendees.

Looking forward, there are all the activities that our groups undertake and the usual monthly meetings. Invariably these are well attended and we have some fascinating talks to look forward to. Two events also worthy of mention are our usual participation in the Emsworth Show on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August and the Christmas Lunch on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. This year the lunch will be organised for us by Sue and David Bittles so watch out for their emails inviting attendance.

That is all that I can think of for now.

I will be seeing you in a group or at a monthly meeting or at our events or just wandering around Emsworth.

Take care of yourselves and of each other.

My very best wishes

*Adrian Wakeford*



## **Groups Coordinator**

Over the past few months our groups have been busy and there have been some changes.

Our new Walking Group is now established, providing a longer and more challenging walk.

After many years of leading The Science, Engineering and Technology Group Gail Wynne-Jones has stepped down as leader – big thanks to Gail for all her hard work over the years. Big thanks also to Chris Henna who has stepped forward and replaced Gail as leader.

Our Theatre Group has slimmed down to one small group, moving on from the previous 'inner and outer circle'.

Ros Wilson has just completed a 3 month trial leading a new Sing Group and I am delighted to say that will continue from September.

Our Birdwatching and Garden Visit Group Leaders needed to step down and there was a danger the groups would fold. However following discussions with the groups we have moved to a more 'shared' model; where someone provides the admin support and the group members take turns to lead. This works well with several groups and is a great way to ensure the group continues, spreads the workload and often provides enhanced learning opportunities for group members. If you are a Group Leader and would like to explore this model for your group please get in touch.

We are planning to hold our thank you lunch for Group Leaders and Volunteers on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026. As you can see our last one was enjoyed by all.

Also a heads up that the Christmas Party will be held at Chichester College on the 5th December.

Jackie Treacher

## Birdwatching Group

The birdwatching group has had a very enjoyable 6 months out and about along the coast and in the countryside. We have several very knowledgeable members and I think I can say with confidence that we have spotted a large percentage of the birds mentioned in the RSPB guide. Since December we have visited the Oyster beds and Billy Trail at Hayling Island, Pulborough RSPB, Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour, not to mention a very successful Nightjar walk in Stansted forest.

To date, the Nightjar walk has been our most exciting trip. Anne Fox-Robinson led us deep into the forest at 9pm armed with two flasks - coffee, tea and biscuits. 14 of us stood in complete silence waiting for the show to start and we were not disappointed! The air soon vibrated with Nightjars churring and we were privileged to

witness at least eight sightings of the birds over a period of 45 minutes. Nightjars are funny-looking birds, so I have attached a photo below for those of you who don't know what I am talking about....

Along with the regular visitors we see such as the Brent Geese, Large grey Storks, Egrets and seagulls, (not to mention a lot of little brown birds!). some birds I have seen are new to me. Who would have thought that

catching a glimpse of a Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher, Skylarks and warblers could be so rewarding!

Communing with nature is good for mental health and being in the fresh air with friends who enjoy a shared interest has many benefits. We don't walk in a straight line from A-B. There is lots of discussion and we are happy to stand and stare in between bursts of activity!

*Valerie Allen*



## Preamble Group

The Preamble group, led by Kim and Jan Shelley meets every 4th Monday at 10 am in Emsworth Square for a local gentle walk which lasts for approximately 1 hour followed by refreshments.

It's a great way for people to meet and chat and new members are always welcome.

Future walk dates are:

7 July

4 August

1 and 29 Sept

27 October

24 November

Contact details for the group can be found on the U3A website.

*Jan and Kim Shelley*



## Book Group 1

Book Group 1 has enjoyed a variety of books this year which have provided us with some very lively discussions. From the library list we chose several non fiction books, but are now selecting from the fiction list once again. As you will see from the photograph, we enjoy holding our meetings in the garden whenever possible and this summer is coming up trumps so far. Thank you to all our members who so generously offer their homes throughout the year.



It's i before e except after c, or when we *feign agreeing*, but this *foreign poltergeist* of a rule is *neither efficient* nor smart - and *therein* lies the *height* of the issue. It's as if an *ancient deity* has *deigned* to influence the *zeitgeist* of the people. We must remove the *weight* of this *veil* from *their* eyes, and *forfeit* the *obeisance* of this *weird* and *heinous* rule from our *science* and *leisure* alike.

## Science, Engineering and Technology Group (SET)

In March 2025 Gail Wynne Jones relinquished her long established leadership of SET and handed the reins to me. No small challenge there then; especially as a fire at the community centre created some immediate organisational disruption. However thanks to support from Emsworth Baptist church we were able to hold our regular monthly meeting, which kicked off with a video and presentation about the UK Nuclear fusion programme followed by a discussion on its future evolution. In April we were back in our usual haunt for a discussion about the future shape and direction of SET; one result being a decision to invite any interested Emsworth U3a members to our meetings on an ad hoc basis; but subject to a small fee to cover hall hire. We also had a demonstration of how AI could assist the generation of presentation material, which I must say was pretty impressive and spurred further interest in the use of AI and Chat GPT for some of our forthcoming events. Our meeting on May included a talk by Graham Simms on Obtaining Drinking water from Alternative sources and an exploration of How the Sextant works, and on June 22nd visited The Army Air Museum at Middle Wallop as reported on the next page.

All are welcome to attend our meetings.

*Chris Hennah*



## SET Army Air Museum visit

Ten SET members and associates enjoyed a visit to the Army Air Museum at Middle Wallop on Tuesday 24th June. For those not acquainted with the museum, (that means me) it covers all the early days of military flying including the role of RFC up to its transition to the RAF in April 1918; as well as the evolution, development and deployment of rotary and fixed wing aircraft used by the army up to the present day. The museum houses an extensive array of fixed and rotary wing aircraft from the First World War to the present as well as a number of interactive cockpit simulators and displays. We were particularly fortunate to have with us as advisers and guides Les Pallett and John Richards, both of whom had served at Middle Wallop. Les provided an REME insight into the operational and maintenance role of army air and John as a highly experienced pilot instructor gave us fascinating and sometimes hair raising insights into the somewhat temperamental operation and deployment of some of these aircraft. In all it was a highly instructive day and well worth a repeat visit. For transport we were fortunate to have the Bosham community minibus which provided an excellent service and one I would recommend for future engagements.



## **The Rhythm and Rock Group Celebrates its Centenary**

In February of this year, the Rhythm and Rock group celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are an informal group who meet monthly to listen to and discuss popular music from the 1950s to the present day. Each meeting has a specific theme, chosen by the meeting host, and members bring along their choices. In the beginning these were all on CD – now the more technically minded use saved music databases and Bluetooth, or Spotify.

The range of music covers most genres of music including rock 'n roll, reggae, r'n'b, rock, soul, pop, folk and country, the occasional punk or heavy metal. Individuals, seeking no doubt to educate, have favourites which pop up frequently, some tolerated, some welcomed – Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, the Proclaimers, Steeleye Span, Billy Bragg spring to mind. Attendees look forward to being informed by others' choices, and to have their memories jogged of songs forgotten.

The group is ably led by the fountain of music knowledge, David Harris - many will know him also as the editor of the excellent Ems newspaper.

The Covid months were a challenge – initially, we continued by Zoom but it is not the best platform for playing music, so we suspended meetings until we could meet outdoors. One month had Lockdown Songs as the theme- choices included Boris the Spider by the Who, Keep a Knockin' (But you can't come in) by Little Richard, Don't Stand Close to Me by Police and Ghost Town by the Specials.

We have played music by over 600 artists. The most played, which might come as a surprise to many of you, but not to our group, was Leonard Cohen, with 44 spins. He was closely followed by the Beatles (42), Bob Dylan (37), the Rolling Stones (29), Elvis Presley (20), Joni Mitchell (19), the Kinks and the Proclaimers (14 each), Elton John and Joan Baez (13), Eric Clapton and Queen (12), the Beach Boys, Buddy Holly, James Taylor, Pink Floyd, The Who (all with 11 each) and Bruce Springsteen with 10 plays. Paul Simon, with and without Garfunkel, has been played 19 times.

One of our number, Chrissie Dixon, has performed 2 of her choices live.

The group has listened to approximately 1500 different tunes. The most played songs, all with 4 plays, have been Eve of Destruction by Barry McGuire, Famous Blue Overcoat (Leonard Cohen and Handsome Family), Fixin' to Die (including a Polka version by Country Joe), Hotel California by the Eagles, and Walkin' the Dog (Rufus Thomas and the Rolling Stones). 31 other songs had 3 plays each, including the hilarious We Will All Go Together by Tom Lehrer and Pink Floyd's

Another Brick In The Wall. The number of plays does not necessarily mean popularity – appropriateness for a particular theme is always a factor.

The artists mentioned above may be known to many, however we have played several lesser-known ones – Splodgeness Abounds (a Kent punk band), Dexter Romweber (American Rockabilly), Prefab Sprout (80s English pop band), Spanky and our Gang (60s American sunshine band), Tame Impala (Australian psychedelia), to name a few.

We have played records by international artists such as Youssou N’Dour



(Senegal) and Cesaria Evora (Cape Verde). There was a Japanese-language version of My Back Pages courtesy of the Magokoro Brothers and an Italian hip-hop take on Like a Rolling Stone (Come Una Pietra Scalfiata) by Articolo 31.

One of the quirkiest choices was Sean Connery talking his way through the Beatles’ In My Life (surprisingly good).

We always look forward to the next month’s challenge of finding tunes for a particular theme.

Here’s to the next 100!

*Ken Laing*

## Useful Tools Kim Shelley 2024

“I am more useful than you”  
Said to the bradawl to the screw.  
“I make the holes in wood  
for you to be turned through.”



“ I am more useful than you  
young bradawl.” Said the screw,  
Holding the wood together  
is something a bradawl can’t do.”

“ I am more useful than you.”  
Said the screwdriver to the screw.  
“ I can turn and turn you so deep  
until there’s no more to do.”



“ I am more useful than you.”  
Said the hammer to the screwdriver.  
“ I can bash you deeper and deeper,  
I am strong and a real survivor.”

The handheld tools were fighting,  
Their words were not getting kinder.  
Then there appeared a surprise to them all



“Hello, I am an angle grinder !”



### ***Violets are blue***

*I don't have any violets; perhaps lavender will qualify  
The roses in my garden are yellow, red and pink  
and perched on top of one of them there is an orange butterfly  
which flutters to another flower faster than I can blink.  
And while I'm on the subject I have long been fascinated  
By the way that every language tries to emulate their shimmering;  
Italians say farfalla and Germans love the schmetterling  
Though there doesn't seem to me to be a linguistic link.  
In French it's papillon, in Spain it's mariposa  
Arabic has farasha, but I am no lepidopterist,  
and just a simple butterfly is quite enough to mystify,  
And refer to in a language I can think.*

**Catherine Madinaveitia**



## **The Man from Hayling.**

Kim Shelley 2024

There was a man from Hayling, who had a leaky boat,  
He had to keep on bailing, to keep the thing afloat,  
He went out on the Solent, the water was dead calm,  
But in a matter of moments, he became alarmed,  
He knew his boat was sinking, his bailing became frantic,  
Oh dear what was he thinking, he won't make the Atlantic.

He looked around for rescue, and shouted out for aid,  
There is no one to save you, came a voice from a young mermaid,  
He asked her for assistance, to get back to the shore,  
She admired his persistence, and questioned him some more,  
Young man it is remote, that you can go to sea,  
In a boat that will not float, then ask for help from me.

He threw a line towards her, and pleaded to be saved,  
Please don't let me drown here, and sink below the waves,  
She held the line so tightly, and swam towards the shore,  
I'll save you if you promise, to go to sea no more,  
He vowed that he would do so, and stay safe on the land,  
And when his boat was on the beach, she took him by the hand.

She led him up the beach, and took him to his home,  
He thanked her once again, and promised not to roam,  
I'm a man of independence, and not a man who begs,  
And when he looked her up and down, he saw that she had legs,  
She threw her arms around him, and said please may I say,  
I really don't like water, so won't you let me stay.

# A few thoughts about our wonderful language



## Why English is so hard to learn

YOU think English is easy? Check out the following.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that the workers had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture shown at the store.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present to his girlfriend.
- 8 A bass was painted on the head. of the bass drum'.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object which he showed me.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid in his hospital bed.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about who would row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does [females] are present
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind. was too strong to wind the sail around the mast.
- 18 Upon seeing the tear in her painting she shed a tear
19. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
20. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

## Monthly meeting talks for 2025

18th July	<p><b>Alan Feeland on AI (Artificial Intelligence)</b> AI is the transformational technology of our generation. It could have as greater impact on society as the Industrial Revolution, the internet or mobile phones.</p>
19th September	<p><b>John Webster — Grandma Flew Spitfires : The Story of the Air Transport Auxiliary</b> The Air Transport Auxiliary was a civilian organisation tasked with supporting the RAF and Fleet Air Arm, performing many and varied transport roles, including the moving of aircraft to and from factories, maintenance units and operational bases.</p>
17th October	<p><b>Harry Sherrard — The History of Goodwood</b> The Goodwood estate, the Dukes of Richmond and how RAF Westhampnet morphed from a Battle of Britain airfield into the Goodwood we know today.</p>
21st November	<p><b>John Field — the Amazing World of Magic</b> You will hear about the oldest magician known to mankind, the oldest trick in magic, scams based on that trick and how to avoid being caught out.</p>

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<p><b>Pamela Eardley</b> Treasurer  <a href="mailto:pmeardley@gmail.com">pmeardley@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Events and Outings organiser.            VACANT</p>

# COFFEE ROTA

Shown below is the rota for serving the tea, coffee and biscuits at the monthly meetings.

Depending on the size of Group there may be two Groups for any one month - will Group Leaders please liaise and ensure that at least three people 'volunteer' for this duty.

*If insufficient people turn up to provide the service then no refreshments will be served at that meeting*

July	Classical Music / Listening to Jazz
August	<i>No meeting</i>
September	Science, Engineering & Tech / Poetry Writing
October	Wine Appreciation / Art Discovery
November	Theatre Group / Discussion 1
December	<i>No meeting</i>

Any queries please contact  
Bridget Watts, [bridget.watts@btinternet.com](mailto:bridget.watts@btinternet.com) or  
Maureen Nicholas, [maureenicholas7@gmail.com](mailto:maureenicholas7@gmail.com)

Remember to look at our website – lots of useful information on there.  
[www.emsworthu3a.org.uk](http://www.emsworthu3a.org.uk)

## South East u3a Forum Summer School 2025

The dates for 2025 are:

**Wednesday 12th March 2025.- Course list and details** will be posted on the Forum website by mid-day

**Thursday 10th April 2025.- Bookings** will go 'live' by mid-day  
The April booking date will coincide with the April edition of the u3a Matters magazine.

The courses are at the planning stage at present, but the team member responsible for finding tutors is hard at work liaising with the ones we have been in touch with so far. Below is the list of those courses we will be offering in 2025:

Latin with History  
Mah Jong - *Intermediates*  
Mathematics  
Opera  
Patchwork - *Beginners*  
Philosophy  
Poetry – *Australian poets*  
Walking



There are more courses in the pipeline and the situation is fluid at present, but progressing nicely.

The costings for 2025 summer school will be available soon, shortly after approval by the Forum Trustees.

There will also be entertainment on campus, each evening, which is included in the price for summer school. But, if you would like to attend the theatre on the Tuesday evening, this comes at an extra cost – ticket price to be released after Chichester Festival Theatre has released their seasonal programme and we know what is on offer.

Full information on all aspects of this Summer School can be found on the South East u3a Forum's website: [2025 - South East u3a Forum](#)

*The Summer School Team 2025, South East u3a Forum*



All images are from Summer School 2023

# The Essential Guide to LIFE After BEREAVEMENT Beyond Tomorrow

By Judy Carole Kauffmann and Mary Jordan

Reviewed and commented on by Ros Wilson



My husband Bob had Alzheimer's, and for 10 years it had dominated our marriage. So when he died in January of this year I was quite dismissive of the condolences offered.

Alzheimer's is a thief, I would say. I've had 10 years to experience 'a prolonged period of mourning'. For about 2 months after he died I believed that. Then I was driving to Chichester when a storm of anger attacked me. Fortunately no one else was nearby! Raising my fist up in the air I screamed at Bob, "How could you desert me? How could you leave me with all this mess to clear up? Who is going to do this for me when I die?"

Grieving is a solitary business for me. However, I found this book helpful. If you are grieving, take from it what is helpful to you. Below are my reasons for borrowing from the library.

1. Get the firsts over with. Putting it off only makes it more frightening. The second time is easier.
2. Personal Effects Chapter. Some very helpful practical advice about the many recycling and selling sites available online
3. Elizabeth-Kubler Rosi apparently identified 5 Stages of Grief. Grief is a soup of feelings. However I found the stages listed like that very comforting.
4. So often with this book the descriptions of this unexpected journey seemed remarkably accurate. eg Those with lives intertwined like the roots of two trees will feel they have to go through a process of finding which were their own roots and rebuilding their lives, which can be very frightening.
5. A suggestion from the book which I am going to take. On Bob's Birthday his ashes will be put in our garden. He loved gardening. Then an Ornamental Pear tree will be planted on top.
6. I loved to read these words as I carved my way through this new strange landscape. 'To behave in an abnormal way is normal in abnormal circumstances'.
7. Finally, as the wife of a husband with Alzheimer's the paragraph which prompted me to borrow the book - 'Grief doesn't take a different route just because the person deteriorated over a long period of time. You are entitled to feel as much sorrow, as much anger and as much depression as anyone else who is mourning.'

## REMEMBERING ANNETTE

In November last year Annette and I celebrated 60 years of marriage with many friends at a lovely party. Just before Christmas we visited family in Manchester. We had an evening out on the town, with a good meal and going to see *Wicked, The Musical*. After we came home she was diagnosed with cancer, resulting in her passing away four months later. In a very full life of nearly 82 years, a lousy last four months is a very small part, so we must remember the 81½ years that were so very good and so very full.

