

Susan Vincent

Susan talks about T. E. Lawrence. This talk provides information about TE Lawrence's life in brief and then more details about his time in Dorset and the friends he had to visit him.

Tuesday 17th January

Doors open 2.15pm

Speaker 3.00pm

Susan Vincent

on the

Life of T.E. Lawrence

a.k.a. Lawrence of Arabia



Please note:

Due to rising costs, we regret that we must increase our entry fees to the general meetings. From January 2023, entrance for Blackmore Vale u3a members will be **£2.00 and for visitors **£3.00**. Please be happy in the fact that your membership fee will not be increased!**

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE IN NOW

£15.00 or £11.50 if you bring proof of

Membership of another u3a branch.

Group Leaders & Committee Members £7.50

Cheques payable to Blackmore Vale U3A

(Please contact Gill Westall for postal address)

We are now able to take membership payments by debit or credit card – in person only. This can be done at the general meeting.

If you wish to pay by bank transfer:

Blackmore Vale U3A

Barclays Bank

sort code: 20 99 40

account: 03388832

please use your surname and

membership number as the

reference then email

bvmembership@outlook.com to say

you have done this.



Group Coordinator's Report

26th December 2022

The **Going Places** group is up and running with Sue Latimer as the group leader. Some members have been on trips to see various performances.

It is planned that the **Games** group will start on 30th January. It will normally meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at the Group Leader, Dave Rabone's, house at 14:30. Note: for January, the group will meet for the first time on Monday 16th January. Please wait for an e-mail confirmation from Dave Rabone.

Bridge – ongoing. Team Leader Howard Warden. Meet on 2nd and 4th Monday in Lounge of Henstridge Village Hall at 14:15 ready to start playing at 14:30.

Croquet – It will meet on an ad hoc basis in summer months when the weather is favourable.

Garden Visits – this is proving to be a very popular group and has had to close to new members. There are 30 members with a waiting list of about 10 people. The group meets once on the first Monday of the month in Time After Thyme at 11:00. Lyn Comrie has stood down after 3 years as Group Leader for which I thank her enormously. Her successor is Jan Nast who, with support from Brita Wood, has volunteered to take over from January 2023. We are still hoping to set up a second group in the new year which will need a group leader (maybe someone from the existing garden visits group would be able to do this), but a volunteer to be the group leader is required.

Lunch Club – this is a new group with Jean Lindley as the Group Leader. It offers visits to a local pub / restaurant for lunch on a bi-monthly basis. Between lunches, the starters / pudding club meets at Jean's house.

Photography – this is a fairly new group with David Foster as the Group Leader. It meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at a group member's house and arrangements will be made to have trips out to take photographs and share knowledge with other members. Anyone who is interested in improving their photography skills is welcome to join.

Reading – Jean Lindley as the Group Leader for the two groups. One group meets in the Tippling Philosopher, Milborne Port at 10:30 on the 2nd Friday of each month and the other meets at the Virginia Ash, Henstridge at 14:30 on the 4th Friday of the month. Each group reads a book which is discussed when the group meets.

Table Tennis – the table tennis group will be run outside the u3a organisation from January, as a part of the facilities offered by the Henstridge Community Hub. This will allow the group to be open to non u3a members - all are welcome to continue to play on a Monday and Friday from 14:00 to 15:00. Helen Howlett will continue to lead this group.

Walking – the Tuesday walking group led by Dennis Ollington walks on the last Tuesday in the month and the Wednesday group led by Richard Kidd walks on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. These groups are independent, but take the format of a different walk each month followed by lunch at a nearby pub. The meeting place and time are determined by where the walk starts and how long the walk is expected to take.

Hilary Smith



GARDEN VISITS GROUP

My thanks to Jan Nast for leading the Garden Group on a visit to Frankham Farm in October. The farmhouse is surrounded by a number of gardens all with different planting. The Group enjoyed autumn leaves in the woodland glade followed by tea and cake.



November saw us at Stourhead, where we lunched at the Spread Eagle Inn before walking round the lake. Not a lot of autumn colour, but we did see a rainbow.

We also visited Wilton Garden Centre, a last opportunity to buy spring flowering bulbs, and an early opportunity for Christmas flowering plants. Autumn colours along the A30 were quite stunning, in fact much better than our previous outing to Stourhead!

After three years as Group Leader, I have decided to step down, and I am delighted to say that Jan Nast will be taking over as Leader and Brita Wood has agreed to assist her. My thanks and good wishes to them both.

Lyn Comrie



The Paperboy

This is a true Christmas story I heard on the radio about 30 years ago.

James, his first term at school, was very excited about the Nativity show his class will be showing to their parents.

He meets Mummy after school saying "I'm in the Nativity show, we all are."

"What are you?" asked Mummy.

"Oh, I'm a piece of paper." Strange, thought Mummy.

In putting James to bed Daddy asked the question, same reply, a piece of paper. Both parents very confused.

The following day in the playground Mummy speaks to his teacher.

"We are very confused about the part James is playing in the Nativity play."

"So, what's the problem?" asks the teacher.

"Well, James says he's a piece of paper." The teacher is now also confused and thinks for a moment.

"Oh, I know, of course - he's a Page!"

CU in the New Year. Best wishes to everyone

Lorraine Williams



Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

DORSET ARCHAEOLOGY 2023



Blandford & District u3a has arranged a four-session course on the archaeology of Dorset from the Stone Age to the Norman Conquest. They anticipate the course will start in mid-February and run over four sessions in the afternoons on alternate weeks. It will cover the era from the Stone Age to the Norman Conquest, and their tutor is John Smith who is well known on the Dorset circuit of speakers and has spoken to Blandford U3A on the Roman army with reference to its presence in Dorset, and Dorset and the Battle of Britain. He is also an archaeologist, and has worked at Bignor and Rockbourne Roman Villas, and the legionary fortress at Lake Farm near Wimborne. There will be no site visits during the course.

The cost for the whole course will be APPROXIMATELY £10.00 per person, and this will cover John Smith's fees and the hire of the hall, but not coffee or tea.

If you are interested in their course, please contact Bridget Spiers at Blandford u3a for more information or to register your interest at bridgetspiers1706@gmail.com. If several of our members are interested, we could try to arrange lifts there for members who do not have transport. Please contact Gill Westall if you would like to arrange a lift.



The Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Visit 9th May 2023

What more could you want?

A bracing walk by the sea at Bournemouth and a visit to The Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum?



Our July speaker Dr James Taylor so enthralled members that a coach trip to Bournemouth visiting The Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum is being arranged. There are lifts and plenty of seats for viewing the art as well as helpful staff and a café and gift shop on site.

So put **Tuesday May 9th, 2023**, in your diary now and let Gill Westall, membership secretary, know ASAP that you are interested. If enough people are interested, we could hire a minibus, otherwise car sharing may be in order. Cost of travel will depend upon number of people wishing to come along.

bvmembership@outlook.com

Blackmore Vale u3a Speakers for 2023

March 7th

Denise Edwards

Denise has worked as a stunt performer for the film and television industries. She talks about her experiences working as a stunt performer spanning over 40 years. A childhood passion and dedication for a sport led her to being involved in the profession, one that she would not have chosen.

She details her first “amateur” stunt and subsequent contracts as a professional swimmer which lead onto her becoming aware of the Stunt Register. Denise outlines what it takes to become a stunt performer, the skills, the training, the fees, the insurance & subscriptions.

She recalls some of her experiences working on various films and television productions and actors for whom she has doubled.

May 2nd

CATCH (Community Action to Transform the Cale Habitat)

To be confirmed

July 4th

Sally Nex

The thousands of tons of plastic polluting our oceans and beaches are having a devastating effect on marine ecosystems. Yet UK gardeners currently get through about 500 million plastic pots every single year – as well as countless plastic plant labels, seed trays, bedding plant trays, polythene cloches....

Ever since 2017 Sally has been working to reduce, and where possible eliminate the plastic from her garden. She has written about her experiences each month throughout 2019 for The Garden (the RHS journal) and this talk is all about how you too can garden without plastic.

September 5th

Open Day – no speaker

November 7th

Miranda Pender

More of her songs and stories with a little Christmas twist.

Your Committee

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Group contacts

Walking Group, Tuesday	Dennis Ollington	Ollingd1@yahoo.com
Walking Group, Wednesday	Richard Kidd	richardakidd64@gmail.com
Reading Groups	Jean Lindley	ejlbyre@btinternet.com
Croquet / Lunch Club	Jean Lindley	ejlbyre@btinternet.com
Bridge	Howard Warden	Warden444@btinternet.com
Garden Visits	Jan Nast	Janice.nast@gmail.com
Games	David Rabone	drabone10@btinternet.com
Going Places	Sue Latimer	susanlatimer155@gmail.com
Photography	David Foster	davidfoster1625@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS

Are usually held in Henstridge Village Hall from 2.15pm on the first Tuesday of alternate months.

Members £1.50 Visitors 2.50

All our general meetings are publicised in the online Blackmore Vale magazine, local Facebook pages, websites and magazines. Posters are circulated to public places in Stalbridge, Henstridge, Wincanton, Templecombe and Milborne Port.

Venue hire

Please remember when making bookings that each group is self-funding, therefore, if there are any costs involved, a suitable fee should be charged to attendees to cover these costs. **Also, a copy of the invoice and receipt is required to be sent to the Treasurer each month to be entered into the main accounts.**

Privacy Policy

Please be assured that we will never pass on your details to third parties without explicit consent from you and that we will never share your details with any company or charity for marketing purposes.

The contents of this newsletter are provided by the members for the members and is produced at no cost to the members.