

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

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Doors open 2.15pm Speaker 3.00pm

**SALLY NEX**

**Gardening without Plastic**



Members £2.00 Visitors £3.00  
Includes refreshments



## **Group Coordinator's Report**

Groups Report 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Please see list of group leaders at the back of this newsletter for contact details.

**Boules:** would anyone be interested in playing boules on the new boules court behind the Village Hall in Henstridge? Or behind the Village Hall in Stalbridge? Please contact Hilary Smith on 01935 509551 or bvgroupscoord@gmail.com

**Bridge:** meets on 2nd and 4th Monday in Lounge of Henstridge Village Hall at 14:15 ready to start playing at 14:30 (small charge to cover cost of hall hire). Group leader is Howard Warden.

**Croquet:** now restarted and meeting at Jean Lindley's House when the weather is favourable. This is necessarily on an ad hoc basis, so please contact Jean if you do not receive e-mails from her about this and would like to. Group leader is Jean Lindley

**Garden Visits:** led by Jan Nast, assisted by Brita Wood. Meets on the first Monday of each month in at 11:00 and the group decides which gardens to visit that month. The group has historically met at Thyme after Time, but for the July meeting is trying

the café at Grass Roots Garden Centre on the Stalbridge end of Henstridge, post code BA8 0SA

**Going Places:** sadly, this group has now disbanded due to lack of interest. Many thanks go to Sue Latimer for all her hard work for this group

**Lunch / Pudding Club:** led by Jean Lindley. The group offers visits to a local pub / restaurant for lunch on a bi-monthly basis, alternating with the starters / pudding club which meets at Jean's house. Members take either a starter or dessert to share.

**Photography:** led by David Foster. It meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 19:30 at a group member's house when 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:** led by Jean Lindley. There are 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 15:00 on the 4th Friday of the month. Each group reads a book which is discussed when the group meets.

**Walking Tuesday:** led by Dennis Ollington, assisted by Ian Westall. They walk on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a different walk each month and the meeting place and time are determined by where the walk starts and how long it will take. Afterwards, refreshment is normally taken at a local hostelry.

**Walking Wednesday:** led by Richard Kidd, assisted by Viv Evans and Hilary Smith. They walk on the third Wednesday of the month and the meeting place and time are determined by where the walk starts and how long it will take. Afterwards, refreshment is normally taken at a local hostelry.



## Photography Group

Following our successful photography shoot in Wells earlier this year, the group is 'out and about' for our next meeting on 20th June. The venue is Sturminster Newton Mill (signposted just off the A357) from 7pm for a couple of hours. The mill building, the mill pond and the surrounding area offers lots of great photo opportunities. Guests and new members are welcome to join us. You don't have to be an expert, just an enthusiast so grab your camera and come along. Contact me for further details.

The group is planning further visits to places of interest in the coming months so watch this space for further news.

*David Foster. Group Leader*



## WALKING GROUPS

### Wednesday Walking Group

Our walk in April was to Duncliffe Woods, one of the favourites for the time of year. We were slightly early for the best display of bluebells but May would have been too late! The Duncliffe walk includes some of the steepest ascents that we tackle but these sections can be avoided by taking a short cut back to the start. There were some very muddy gateways on the approach to the woods. Most walkers took lunch at The Kings Arms at East Stour Common.

By contrast the May walk, around Chetnole, had probably the smallest total ascent of any of our walks. Very muddy sections encountered on the recce had substantially dried out by the time of the walk, and cattle had been moved from some of the fields. Lunch was taken at the welcoming Chetnole Inn.



*May walking group - a field near Chetnole*

Our June walk will follow the River Stour from Sturminster Mill to Cutt Mill. It may be of interest to those of you who walk in the area independently that repairs to the bridge at Cutt Mill are virtually complete and it can now be used. Apparently, a horse fell through the decking and had to be rescued from the river by the fire brigade.

In July we will be having our annual longer "Awayday". This will be to somewhere on the Jurassic Coast and will involve a morning walk to a suitable hostelry with a shorter return to the starting point in the afternoon. It should be possible to arrange transport logistics for any who do not walk after lunch!

**Richard Kidd and Hilary Smith**

[richardakidd64@gmail.com](mailto:richardakidd64@gmail.com).



## GARDEN VISITS GROUP



The u3a Garden Group is still going strong and we have been on a couple of good trips recently. As we had two bank holidays in May (and Thyme After Time Cafe was closed), we decided to go to Kimbers Farm Cafe and Antique Centre, near Wincanton for a change. We visited both shops, then around ten of us stayed for a lovely lunch in the nice cafe there.



In early June, I managed to arrange a private visit to a lovely NGS Garden at Frith House, near Stalbridge. We had a very good turnout and fourteen of us went on a tour of their lovely garden, with both the owners and their Head Gardener, who explained how the garden had evolved, so it was very informative. This was followed by a delicious tea and cake on the lovely sun terrace, which overlooked the garden. Our hosts there made us very welcome and the proceeds of our visit went straight to the NGS Charity, which was good.



At the end of June, we have been fortunate enough to get a private visit to Ven House, Milborne Port, so 30 of us are going on the afternoon of: Tues 27th June. We will again be escorted around the large gardens by the Head Gardener (or his Assistant), followed by a full afternoon tea in the old stables area. As the gardens are only open once a year, we have been very lucky to obtain a 'slot' for this, so many thanks to Gill Westall for sorting this out with the Head Gardener!

To advise that we still have two spaces left on our group, if anyone would like to join us, please contact me by email on [janice.nast@gmail.com](mailto:janice.nast@gmail.com).

*Jan Nast*



## LUNCH CLUB

We had a well-attended lunch at home in May. We had a good selection of salads quiches, coronation chicken with some beautiful bread made by Helen who has certainly mastered the art of bread making. This was followed by two fruit crumbles and a chocolate pudding. As always, the conversation was entertaining!

Our next pub lunch will be on Thursday 22nd June at The Kings Arms in Thornford and will be reported in the next newsletter. This is a pub which most of us didn't know existed so it will be a novel experience. On 20th July we will have our next Lunch at Home to which everyone is invited but please let me know if you would like to come.

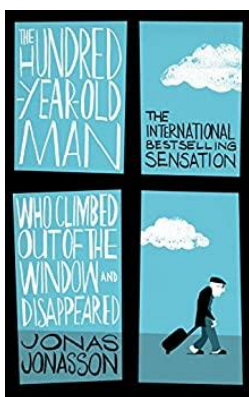
Jean Lindley



## READING GROUPS

### *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out Of A Window and disappeared*

Jonas Jonasson



Do not let the title put you off: it did me at first: then I began to read and could not put down this book...

Everyone in our book group loved it. It is the tale of (see title!) a man who, on his hundredth birthday with its threatened hoo-ha, escapes from his care home with An Adventure in mind. What an adventure it turns out to be; beautifully written, just as cleverly translated from the original Swedish and ( as some of our group found when in public spaces and to their embarrassment) laugh-out-loud funny!

The pace is speedy, the plot, involving all sorts of criminality from minor to murder plus including a potted history of the last century is incredibly cleverly designed to keep us on our toes from start to finish. The characters are brilliantly drawn, the whole premise of the book is unique.

This book led to a lively discussion concerning the foundation of an home for the elderly for U3A members, an home where Bingo is banned together with all inane pastimes...

If you read nothing else to lighten your mood this Summer, do read this book.

Diana Emmings

We were unable to have sufficient books for our April meeting so we each made a choice as follows:

**The Stranding by Kate Sawyer** – surviving a global cataclysm but spoilt by repeated flashbacks.

**1000 yrs of Annoying the French by Stephen Clarke** – light-hearted, impeccably researched & fun to read

**I May Be Wrong by Bjorn Lindebold** – how to relate to your thoughts & emotions to make life more pleasant

**The Midnight Rose by Lucinda Riley** – the extraordinary life of a remarkable girl, 1911 to present day

**One Summer: America 1927 by Bill Bryson** – As always Bryson makes an entertaining & informative.

**Bound Feet & Western Dress by Pang-Mei Natasha Chang** – a remarkable memoir of a woman born in China at the turn of the last century and then married & emigrated to America.

**The 100 year old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared by Jonas Jonasson** This was an unusual book, quite ridiculous really but an easy and enjoyable read with plenty of laughs in it.

**The Four winds by Kristin Hannah.** We all know from our schooldays about the The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl of America but not one of us knew just how bad this was. This novel brought to life what people had to go through, how the poor became poorer and the rich ever richer and more powerful. This is the story of them all through the eyes of one woman and her struggle for her family. She had to make big decisions with no-one to help her. It gave us much to think about and we learnt much from it. I think it will remain in our minds for a long time.

We are about to read **The Quality of Silence by Rosamund Lupton** and **The Tin Man by Sarah Winman**  
*Jean Lindley*



## Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Visit



Who knew that when a group of members visited in May that amongst the treasures there would be Napoleon Bonaparte's wine cooler from St Helena where he died!

Such was the diverse collection that the couple made from their world travels.

After an hour and a half listening to our tour guide, Pippa, we became spellbound by the rags to riches story of the family and needed a cup of tea.

This place is one of Bournemouth's best kept art secrets – do visit. The car park next door will cost you more.



# Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

## Blackmore Vale u3a Speakers for 2023

**September 5th**

Open Day – no speaker

**November 7th**

**Miranda Pender**

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

## 2024



### 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 2024

Can you believe that Blackmore Vale u3a is approaching its 10th birthday???

How will members celebrate this occasion? Hopefully with your inspired ideas!

All thoughts on this, however daft, to [skidsbv3a@gmail.com](mailto:skidsbv3a@gmail.com) by 1st August so that 2024 will dazzle.





## Your Committee

Chair Vice Chair	Susan Kidd Gill Westall	skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com
Secretary	Helen Lennon	hlennon35@yahoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Gill Westall	bvmembership@outlook.com 01963 204318
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Speaker Secretary	Pamela Slater	Pslater321@btinternet.co.uk
Groups Coordinator	Hilary Smith	ron_hilary@tiscali.co.uk
Committee Member	Lin Allison	allisonlinda021@gmail.com
Committee Member	VACANT	

## 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
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 £2.00 Visitors 3.00**

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.