

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Will start at 2.50pm. Please
note that members of BVu3a
only are able to place votes.

Richard will speak about his
experiences filming wildlife in
Guyana.

Tuesday 7th March
Doors open 2.00pm for AGM
Speaker 3.00pm

Richard Edwards

Filming
Wildlife in
Guyana



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE OVERDUE 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.



Giant Water Lily, national flower of Guyana

Group Coordinator's Report

16th February 2023

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

Board Games: this group will not be progressing as there are a number of places in the area which offer board games. Apologies to those of you who were hoping to join this group.

Boules: would anyone be interested in playing boules on the new boules court behind the Village Hall in Henstridge?

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: meets on an ad hoc basis in summer months when the weather is favourable. Group leader is Jean Lindley.

Garden Visits: now led by Jan Nast, assisted by Brita Wood. Meets once a month on the first Monday of the month in Time After Thyme at 11:00 and the group decides which gardens to visit that month.

Going Places: led by Sue Latimer. Ad hoc visits to view live screenings of major London performances and sometimes visits local theatres.

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.



WALKING GROUPS

Tuesday walking group

January walk

The January walk started in Milborne Port at the East Street car park. From there we walked past the back of the primary school and out onto Wheathill Lane, which we followed up to the viewing point opposite the entrance to the Tizzard stables, from where we admired the view over the misty valley towards Crackmore. Following the lane on towards Henstridge Bowden but taking a left turn onto Shoredown Lane we walked down the hill and under the railway bridge before turning right onto Stowell Lane.

After a short distance we took a left turn heading towards Milborne Wick. Crossing Station Road, we expected to see a display of snowdrops alongside the stream but they were disappointingly absent. However, we were delighted to see an extensive display all around the mill pond and down to the old mill wheel.

Walking on through the centre of the delightful hamlet of Milborne Wick, we started to climb up Miller's Hill, which had been treacherously coated with ice the previous week but which now was thankfully clear. At the top of the lane, we took a left turn, now walking south. The lane is well frequented by tractors as a result of which there were plenty water filled ruts as the lane at this stretch is level. As we walked further along towards Three Arch Bridge the lane goes downhill and was thus much dryer.

Crossing the railway at the bridge we headed uphill for a short way turning left onto Furlong Lane. This took us to the junction with Wick Road which we followed down to Johnson's laundry and then through the Tannery Way estate out onto North Street, following this down to the A30 and thence back to East Steet car park. Taking us just two hours and covering a distance of just over four miles. As both the pubs in Milborne Port do not open for lunch on Tuesday we retired to the Bird in Hand in Henstridge.

The February walk will be from Sturminster Newton to Hinton St Mary via the Stour Valley Way returning via the lanes to the east of the A3092.

Ian



Wednesday walking group

The walk on 18th January was from Okeford Hill around a loop, down to Turnworth and back up again to the car park.

The weather was cold with a hard frost overnight, but a number of intrepid walkers made their way to the car park, driving through a snow storm. I imagined the headlines on the local news had the snow continued and caused us problems getting out: Pensioners stuck in snow drift in remote location!

Fortunately, the snow stopped, but the ground remained frozen. This was good because it wasn't muddy. The views should have been spectacular, but for most of the walk the landscape was shrouded in low cloud. However, after climbing

up from Turnworth, the sky started to clear and we ended up with lovely views on our return, made even prettier by the snow on the top of all the surrounding hills. We drove down to the Fiddleford Inn where we partook of a welcome lunch.

We had good weather for the walk on 14th February around Sherborne Castles and lake. Having met at Castle Gardens car park, we walked up the hill (the only steep bit) to reach the footpath which is very well maintained. As we walked along the path, we had lovely views of the castles and lake (see photo) and enjoyed the warm, dry weather.

On reaching the top of the hill, we turned left and went down to the valley at the head of the lake from where we climbed gently up through a magnificent entrance to start another descent to the railway line and the little church at Osborne. Some of our members discovered that it is open, so we all went in to have a look – very small, but quite interesting. There were a lot of beautiful snowdrops in the surrounding graveyard area.

From here we crossed the A30 and walked along the road to Osborne, taking the path to the left just before the church. This leads back to Sherborne, avoiding the rather noisy and busy A30. We took our lunch at Castle Gardens in their restaurant.

Hilary Smith



GARDEN VISITS GROUP

On a sunny day in January 17 members of Garden Group enjoyed a meal at The Grange at Osborne. They kindly gave us a room to ourselves, or maybe they didn't want us disturbing their other guests with our chatter! All dietary needs were catered for, so some people just had a starter and a dessert, others had 3 courses and tea and coffee were included, the food was delicious, service and surroundings couldn't be faulted and of course, the company was excellent.

Many thanks to Jan Nast for taking over as Group Leader and to Brita Wood for offering to assist Jan. Thanks also to the members for being such a fun group and a pleasure to lead.

Lyn





I have recently taken over the Garden Group from Lyn Comrie, ably assisted by Brita Wood. Lyn ran this group very successfully for over three years, so I do hope myself and Brita can 'follow in her footsteps! The first trip we have organised was on: Friday 17th February to Kingston Lacy NT House and Gardens, primarily to see the amazing snowdrop display they have in the Winter Gardens. This was very well attended with 12 members



enjoying a trip around the gardens, then some of us went into the impressive house, after lunch in the Cafe there. As we were quite a large group, we did split up into smaller groups, particularly as it was half term, so was incredibly busy. I shall have to remember to check dates next time...

The next trip will be later in March (Wed 29th) to: East Lambrook Manor Gardens, South Petherton, an RHS Garden, which is good as some of us are members. We will be going around the gardens in the afternoon, then having tea and cake.

The usual monthly Coffee Morning is still being held at the nice *Time-after-Thyme* Cafe at 11.00 on the first Monday of every month and is also proving to be very popular, with around 12-15 members attending. The next one will be on: Monday 6th March.

The Garden Group now has a full quota of members (30), as a couple of members who were on the 'waitlist' have now been able to join us, which is excellent news
Jan



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next group meeting will be on Thursday 23 February. We will be planning our first 'day out' of the year and be discussing possible venues. This is a new group and our meetings will be a mix of discussions, help and advice and review of our photographic activities. We will also have more days out in and around the area. New members and visitors are welcome so if you have a camera why not come and join us at one of our meetings or on our day out.

Should you like to know more please contact David Foster the group leader at davidfoster1625@gmail.com or 07443 580908
David Foster



LUNCH CLUB

Our December Pub Lunch was held post-Christmas and was too late to be reported in the January newsletter. We went to The Elms at North Wootton, a restaurant in a peaceful part of North Dorset with beautiful views from the large windows. The menu is interesting, not normal pub food but, of course, it isn't a pub. We had a most enjoyable time and would recommend the place to all of you.

Our At Home lunch in January was a success with a good quantity of varied dishes, both sweet and savoury. The lemon pudding was particularly delicious...

Lemon Surprise Ramekins

10 fl oz Double Cream
500g fromage frais
1 jar lemon curd
Tuiles amandes or other biscuits

Whisk cream, fold in fromage frais and lemon curd. Put in dishes and chill in 'fridge for at least one hour. Decorate with grapes or whatever you fancy. Can be made the day before or frozen.

Provided by Margaret Jarvis

Our next Pub Lunch will be on 21st February at The White Post at Rimpton and will have happened by the time you read this. We have had very good lunches there in the past and this is another pub with wonderful views. Sadly we hear that the owner is retiring so we wish to eat there once more before that happens.

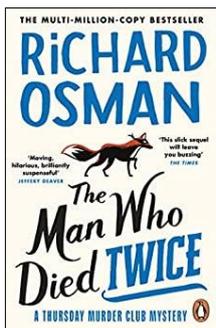
The next Lunch at Home will be on Thursday 16th March. If you wish to join the fun, please contact Jean Lindley 01963 251256 or email ejlbyre@btinternet.com. You will be most welcome.



READING GROUPS

The Man Who Died Twice

Richard Osman



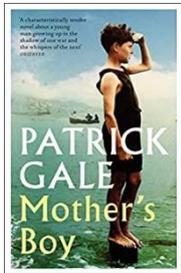
Richard Osman is best known for co-hosting *Pointless* on BBC television, and this book is the second in a series of four. The books concern a small, elderly, disparate group of friends who call themselves, in jest, *The Thursday Murder Club*, (the title of the first book). The friends find themselves drawn into solving their second case in *The Man Who Died Twice* and a third in the new *The Bullet That Missed*. The fourth and last will be published in September. (NB The books do need to be read in sequence and it was unfair to recommend this second book for a Book Group choice: apologies for doing so).

I have thoroughly enjoyed the three that have so far appeared: the plot of each is more convoluted than the last and a mystery to the very end. Each one is a rollicking fast-paced good read, and hilariously funny. Richard Osman has the true writer's observational eye for tiny definitive detailed character and a wonderful turn of descriptive phrase, plus a clever way of setting the most heinous of crimes in the beautiful haven of a West Sussex downland retirement village in which the whole atmosphere smacks of peaceful, country life and in which *The Thursday Murder Club* comes together only by virtue of its members being neighbours. Most of all, these books underline the fact that we older people are not to be overlooked or ignored, that we might actually have led interesting and fulfilling lives, that we each have much to bring to life itself and to others: and that we are very rarely what we seem to younger generations...(U3A anyone?)

Di Emmings

Mother's Boy

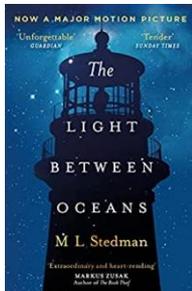
Patrick Gale.



Although this was a novel it was based on the life of the poet, Charles Causley, and a lot of research had gone into it. Obviously, much was fiction but it proved very interesting. The WW1, homosexuality as it was treated then and Charles' difficulty relating to people were all touched on. Most of us found it a good read.

The Light Between Oceans

L.M.Stedman



Tom, a WW1 veteran, returns from the war mentally shattered and just wants peace and solitude so he takes a job as a lighthouse keeper on one of the small rocky outcrops that surround Australia. However, his hope of lasting peace eventually is shattered and he faces decisions and emotional tugs of war that would test any man to his limit. We all enjoyed this book. It was unusual and most of us were unaware of the lives those lighthouse keepers and their families led. A good read.

Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Skittles Night

Once again, a skittles night has been arranged for **Saturday March 18th** at The Swan in Stalbridge. As usual, please book your place with Judy by either email, telephone or at the general meeting where there will be form. £10 to include a delicious hot supper.

jood58@gmail.com telephone 01963 363119.

Judy Penfold

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

May 2nd
CATCH

Community **A**ction to **T**ransform **C**ale **H**abitat (CATCH) is a volunteer community group founded by two local dads, Gary Hunt and Matt Bishop, in November 2012. The group's objective is to improve and maintain the habitat of the River Cale in the Wincanton area, whilst encouraging a diverse, natural balance of wildlife.

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

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
Treasurer	Judy Penfold	Jood58@gmail.com
Publicity	Susan Kidd	Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com 01963 362107
Newsletter and Web Page	Judy Penfold	Jood58@gmail.com
Speaker Secretary	Helen Howlett	Helenbeale27@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Pamela Slater	Pslater321@btinternet.co.uk
Committee Member	Lin Allison	allisonlinda021@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Hilary Smith	ron_hilary@tiscali.co.uk

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
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 £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.