

Henstridge Village Hall, BA8 0QD

Tuesday 2nd May

C.A.T.C.H.

Community Action to Transform
the Cale Habitat



2.15 Doors open for refreshments

2.45 Loyal Toast to King Charles III

3.00 Talk



UPDATES

West Dorset u3a Network Meeting – 23 March 2023

Representing our u3a were Pamela and myself. Hilary attended as the network coordinator.

You may be curious as to why West Dorset, but the simple answer is that this is the nearest network that BVu3a can link into, and it is reassuring to note that there are similar issues within the groups.

Our report to the network was based on the chairperson's AGM report. The major issue for all groups is attracting new committee members. There does not seem to be enough non-full time working people, who are not bound by family commitments, willing to help.

Susan Kidd



Car Parking – future parking by **smart phone app only.**

The 3G data networks that power parking meters are to be switched off by mobile operators, some at the end of 2023, others in 2024. Some councils have already switched.

The cost of changing the meters to 4G is too high. The view is that if people have the skill set to drive a ton and a half of steel, they should be able to download an app.

There are over 30 different smart phone apps currently in use in UK car parks. If the appropriate app is not on your phone, then you may be delayed in the car park, by having to key in contact information and car details. So, prior to your journey download the appropriate apps for where you are going.

Keep an eye on the Levelling Up Committee who wrote to government ministers on 29 March regarding car parking charges and the use of parking apps.
Susan Kidd



Group Coordinator's Report

13th April 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? 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: 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 to 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

The editor understands they had a very nice walk on Duncliffe Hill.



Wednesday walking group

In February Hilary led a walk starting at Castle Gardens in Sherborne, around the estate and returning via Osborne to lunch at Castle Gardens.

The planned walk for March had to be re-routed as maintenance works on the railway line had resulted in the official closure of 60 m of footpath, with dire warnings of £1000 penalties for ignoring the notice. While the two-week closure was scheduled to finish before the date of the walk, it could also be extended to up to 6 months!

The alternative was to take the White Hart link path from Henstridge to Stalbridge, returning over the fields to Landshire Lane. It had been relatively dry in the period up to when Susan and I did a recce but rained significantly in the intervening period. This resulted in parts of the path being significantly wetter than we would have liked. Drews Lane in Stalbridge could have been renamed Drews

Stream, but it was just possible to avoid the deeper water by using the verges. Lunch was taken by most at the Bird in Hand.



Walkers at Drews Lane/Stream

Richard Kidd and Hilary Smith
richardakidd64@gmail.com.



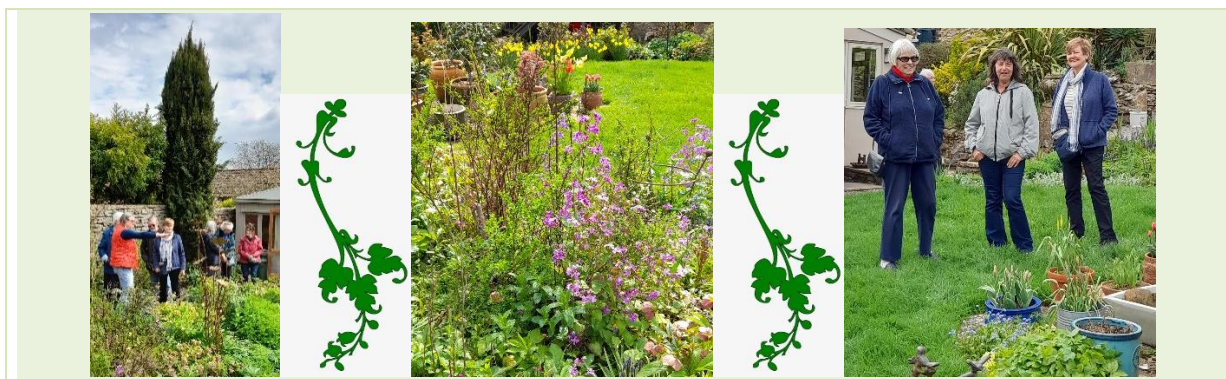
GARDEN VISITS GROUP

The Garden Group is still going strong and at the last Coffee Morning (on:3rd April), there were twenty of us at the Thyme-After-Time Cafe, which I believe is a record.

Unfortunately, our last pre-arranged trip to East Lambrook Manor Gardens at the end of March had to be cancelled, due to wet weather, which was disappointing. On a more positive note, I have managed to organise a further four trips over the next three months, all of which are local, so we are looking forward to these. The first of these is to 'Blackmore House' in Holton, an NGS Garden, is: Tues 18th April for a private tour of the garden, followed by tea and cake, so should be nice.

The other planned trips are in May and June, so I'll obviously report on those in the next Newsletter.

Due to the Bank Holiday on Monday 1st May, there won't be the usual Coffee Morning at Thyme after Time, which is closed on that day. We are arranging an additional trip in May, which is on Tuesday 16th to Kimbers Farm Shop and Cafe, which members have also been made aware of.



Jan Nast



LUNCH CLUB

Lunch at Home

We had an enjoyable March meeting but unfortunately all but one of us provided puddings making rather an overbalance of sugar. In future we will arrange for a more equal division of courses. However, this group originated as Pudding Club and very tasty they all were. Below is the recipe for a quick and easy self-saucing pudding for a cold day

Self-saucing Ginger Toffee Pudding

Batter

1 cup flour
2tsp baking powder
1-2 tsp ground ginger
half a cup soft brown sugar
half a cup white sugar
50g butter
1 tbsp Golden Syrup
half a cup of milk

Sauce

Half cup soft brown sugar
half cup white sugar
1tbsp Golden Syrup
1-2 tsp ground ginger
2 cups boiling water

1. Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl. Melt butter with syrup.
2. Pour into dry ingredients with milk.
3. Place in a greased oven-proof dish that is quite deep.
4. Put sauce ingredients into bowl used for batter. Add boiling water, stir until ingredients are mostly dissolved then pour over batter.

Bake 45mins at 180C. Serve with vanilla ice-cream.

Lunch at a Pub

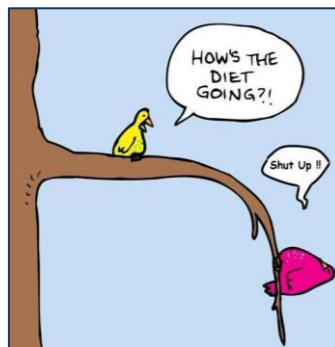
Our last Pub Lunch was at The Bird in Hand in Henstridge. This is a nice friendly local pub. The menu is not extensive or exotic but always tasty and the atmosphere welcoming.

Our next pub lunch will be on 21st April, too close to the publishing deadline to send a report. We are going to The White Post at Rimpton where we have enjoyed going before so we are looking forward to that.

Lunch at Home

Our next Lunch at Home will be Tuesday 23rd May 1pm. Everyone is welcome but please let me know if you are coming and whether you would like to bring a sweet or savoury dish so we can have a more balanced diet.

Jean Lindley



READING GROUPS

A Gentleman in Moscow Amor Towles

In 1922 Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat and sentenced to lifelong house arrest in an attic in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin, but the sentence does not break his indomitable character. We all enjoyed this book and would like to read more of Towles' work. We thoroughly recommend it to everyone.

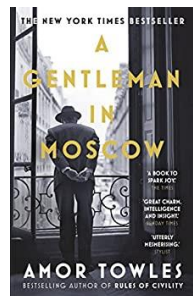
Girl Woman Other Bernadine Evaristo

Certainly, a different sort of book dealing with racism and other problems now facing our society. Well written in an original manner. We were divided in our opinions which ranged from loving it, through liking it, to bored with it, and never finished it.

This Much is True Miriam Margolyes

This is Miriam Margolyes autobiography. I chose it because the reviews said it is funny and interesting. We wondered if the reviewers had even read it! None of us liked it, few read it cover to cover, we didn't find it amusing and would not recommend it to anyone.

Jean Lindley



Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

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	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
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.