

Totton South u3a - the List of our Interest Groups, as at December 2022.

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Totton South

Interest Groups

- For information about an Interest Group, please click on the name of the Group below.
- Interested in joining a Group? Send us an email by using the 'Pigeon' icon in the Group Page (below) or by using the **Contact** tab (above).
- In order to attend an Interest Group, you must be a member (or prospective member) of Totton South u3a.

DISCLAIMER

- It is the personal responsibility of each member to decide on their own capability to participate in any activities organised by Totton South u3a.
- By committing to any activity, you are declaring that you are fit and able to travel and/or undertake the activity.

Group List

2into1 Group	4th Wednesday 2pm-4pm	Art, Craft and Needlework	4th Friday 2pm-4pm
Book Group 1	1st Monday 2pm-4pm	Book Group 2	1st Friday 10am-12noon
Book Group 3	2nd Thursday 10am-12am	Bridge (Improvers)	Every Friday 2pm (Not 3rd Fri)
Bus Pass Pals	- See page for details	Canasta	2nd Tuesday 2pm-4pm
Cinema	- See page for details	Classical Music Appreciation	1st Friday 2pm-4pm
Discussion Group	3rd Monday 2pm-4pm	French Conversation	Every Tuesday 10am
Garden Group	1st Wednesday 10am for 10.30am	Genealogy	Alternate 1st Mon 2pm-4pm
History	1st Wednesday 2pm	Latin	4th Wednesday 2pm
Lunch	- See page for details	Outings	- Group not currently active
Pétanque	Alternate Wednesdays 1.50pm	Scrabble	1st Tuesday 2pm
Strollers	3rd Thursday 10am for 10.15am	Table Tennis	Every Friday 10am-11am
Theatre Trips	- See page for details	Upwords	Alternate Wednesdays 2pm
Walking Group	1st Thursday 9.45am for 10am		

Okehampton Holiday (7th-11th November 2022)

A group of 37 members set off to the Manor House resort near Okehampton in Devon with various car sharing arrangements. The weather was wet and very windy but in the hotel it was warm and friendly. The Manor House is a craft and sports venue with 187 bedrooms on the foothills of Dartmoor National Park. For some members it was their first visit, for some others it was their fifth.



There are around 30 craft activities, sports including bowls, tennis, table tennis, archery and pistol shooting. Also a hydro spa and various keep-fit sessions. So on arrival members started signing up for the various craft workshops and other activities. The very reasonable price of accommodation includes all tuition and coaching and full board. The food quality is excellent on a buffet basis for a full breakfast, 3 course lunch and 3 course dinner.

Each day members chose how to spend their day, after breakfast attending workshops or other activities then calling in the dining room for lunch before fitting in more options and managing to visit the lounge for free tea, coffee and mince pies. We later all gathered for a delicious dinner.



On Wednesday it was a full Christmas dinner preceded by a group photo and cocktails. The evenings were spent relaxing in the bar lounges or attending the entertainment. Although a couple of keen walkers ventured out in the mornings, guided walks were cancelled as the weather was unfavourable.

Each afternoon a film was shown in the 'cinema'. On the Thursday evening members displayed some of the items they had created and then rounded off our stay with ten pin bowling. Overall a very enjoyable holiday and a booking has been made for next November.

Walking Group Holiday to Birdlip and the Cotswolds (23rd-26th October 2022)

An enjoyable holiday was enjoyed by 14 members of Totton South u3a staying 3 nights at the Royal George Hotel in Birdlip near Cheltenham. The staff at the Hotel were very friendly and helpful especially Elaine who was the main contact at the hotel for making the group booking.



Sun 23rd - The Group all met at the Hotel, having made their own travel arrangements to the Hotel with one member taking his Caravan to a local campsite and meeting up with the group for dinner in the evening and joining the planned walks.



Mon 24th - The Walking Group met at Bourton on the Water to start a 4 mile circular walk to Lower Slaughter, we followed the river Windrush from the village where there were delightful properties in Cotswolds stone alongside the river. We then followed various footpaths to reach Lower Slaughter where we enjoyed a well-earned refreshment stop at The Slaughters Country Inn in Lower Slaughter before returning to Bourton on the Water for a coffee stop at a local tearoom followed by a walk around the village. Other members of the Group who wished not to participate in the walk enjoyed touring around the beautiful Cotswolds villages and even a trip to Gloucester Quays Shopping Mall was enjoyed by 3 members of the group. In the evening at dinner, we enjoyed discussing the various activities of the day.



Tue 25th - The Walking Group met at Snowhill near Broadway to start a 4 mile circular walk through the magnificent Cotswolds countryside where we enjoyed spectacular views looking towards Broadway and enjoying the autumnal colours. On returning to Snowhill, National Trust car park some members enjoyed coffee in the tearoom while others visited the property and gardens at Snowhill Manor. Other members of the Group who wished not to participate in the walk enjoyed touring around the beautiful Cotswolds towns & villages such as Burford, Stow on the Wold & Bourton on the Water. In the evening we discussed the day's activities at dinner.



Wed 26th - After breakfast we all reflected on the holiday before our journey home.

Jurassic Coast & Lyme Bay Holiday (3rd-9th September 2022)

On Saturday 3rd September a group of 20 U3A members assembled once again at The Orchard House Rousdon, near Lyme Regis, for our 5th visit to this delightful part of the country. While others were settling in at the house, a small group drove into Lyme Regis for a short walk along the cliff top and then down to the beach. The first day was rounded off with a superb barbecue in the garden of the house. Alcoholic and soft drinks were provided every night by John D. who once again stocked and manned the bar, and thanks to everyone's generosity with their donations for drinks, we were able to give £42 to this year's nominated charity – Oakhaven Hospice.



Sunday dawned rather damp and dull with rain forecast, so a few intrepids set off on the cliff walk to Salcombe while others did their own thing visiting Sidmouth and the Donkey Sanctuary. Rather dull damp weather continued on Monday but undaunted we set off for the Seaton to Colyton tram ride which is always a favourite day out. After coffee and cake at the tram station, the keen walkers set off to walk back to Seaton while others explored Colyton and rode back on the tram.

Tuesday dawned bright and sunny, albeit rather windy, but most of us walked up the Otter estuary to Otterton Mill for a revitalising coffee and lunch before walking back to Budleigh Salterton where some of us relaxed in the afternoon sun with an ice cream before returning to the house. Wednesday was a quiet day for some with a drive or bus ride into Lyme Regis to visit the museum or take a windswept walk along the Cobb. Others visited the Donkey sanctuary (not necessarily for the first time) and at least two, possibly three donkeys were adopted!



On our last morning a small group drove to Axminster to visit the small, but beautifully stocked farmers' market where a selection of mouth-watering pies tempted some of us to take some home for supper the following day. An added bonus was a lunchtime piano recital in the adjoining church where the excellent pianist not only played Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, but gave us a short tutorial on how Beethoven had composed his pieces – a true U3A learning occasion.

Our final afternoon was marred by us hearing the very sad news of the somewhat unexpected death of Queen Elizabeth, which subdued the evening socialising. Once again we have to thank John and Linden K. for all their hard work in organising the holiday, John for researching and leading the walks and Linden for her sterling work in the kitchen planning and preparing hot meals for twenty people. Also all the willing kitchen helpers, quiz setters and drivers who made the week run so smoothly and cheerfully.

Isle of Wight Holiday (25-30th March 2022)

On a bright sunny March afternoon twenty-five u3a members and nine cars boarded the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry for a much needed short break after many months of Covid restrictions. The crossing was smooth and we were soon at Norton Grange Holiday Centre in Yarmouth.

We settled into our very comfortable chalets and the holiday began. We all met up at breakfast and dinner time but otherwise small groups of us went our separate ways during the day, all of us doing the things we enjoy on holiday from walking, to visiting historic sites, riding on the Isle of Wight steam railway, visiting friends on the island or even just sitting and relaxing and enjoying the excellent hotel facilities.

The hotel provided excellent breakfasts and evening meals and there was always some sort of entertainment provided in the evenings for those of us with enough energy left at the end of the day.



u3a STAYCATION (5th-11th September 2020)

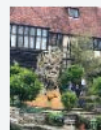
Following the cancellation of our holiday in Lyme Regis due to Covid 19 restrictions, John and Linden had the inspired idea of converting the week into a "staycation", using Hangar Farm Arts Centre as a base for meeting up each day. We held a meeting, collected ideas for days out, and some of us volunteered to each organise one of the days. Eighteen of the group participated, but not everyone could manage every day. We were blessed with a week of very reasonable weather and the staycation started.



Our first day out, organised by Brian and Shelagh, was a fascinating day at Exbury Gardens, riding on the steam train, making bird boxes and enjoying the beautiful gardens. We met again in the evening to watch a film.



The second day, organised by John and Linden, was a drive along a scenic route including the notorious zig-zag hairpin hill into Shaftesbury where we had a very pleasant day wandering around, with coffee and lunch stops and visiting Gold Hill (of Hovis advert fame), with a visit to the Fovant Badges on the way home.



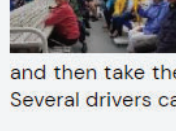
Day three, also organised by John and Linden was a trip to Wisley botanical gardens for a pre-booked visit at 11am. The group then spread far and wide throughout the beautiful gardens and woodland, meeting up occasionally until it was time for the return journey.



Day four, organised by John and Merrilyn, took us to the Isle of Wight, taking the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry, a short drive to Alum Bay and then a walk for some to the Old Needles Battery while others took the chair lift down to the beach and a short boat trip around the bay. Most of us met up again in the evening at Hangar Farm for a games night with quizzes devised by Jean, John and Linden.



Day five, organised by Jenny and Mike, was an outing to Poole, with lunch in Wetherspoons and a Harbour cruise past the distant Studland nudist beach, Brownsea Island and a view of two mothballed cruise ships riding out the Covid-19 pandemic in Weymouth Bay.



Our final day, organised by Dave took us to Swanage for the day. Eight keen walkers went from Studland over Ballard Down to Old Harry Rocks enjoying superb views. Others enjoyed a wander around the town and two decided to explore Corfe Castle and then take the steam train from there to Swanage. We all met up in the Red Lion pub in Swanage for a drink or to have a late, relaxed lunch. Several drivers came back via the chain ferry from Studland to Sandbanks.



Our final evening was again spent at Hangar Farm enjoying a socially distanced salad supper including a gammon joint donated by Shelagh and Brian. This was followed by a singalong accompanied by Mike playing assorted ukuleles and assisted by Jenny.

All in all, it was a very interesting week, not without its challenges, but very well organised by all the "day managers" and much enjoyed by all who took part.

BIRDING PROGRAMME 2020

Please feel free to join us on one or more of our BIRDING field trips during the course of 2020.

At least once a month we meet to go on a field trip to a place of BIRDING interest. The field trips are normally for half a day, 2 or 3 hours duration with us finishing in order that members can get back to do "The School Run".

We try and car share so if you wish to come on any of our trips please contact me and advise whether you need or can offer a lift.

We appreciate that some members may be interested in joining us but do not have binoculars or a telescope. This is not a problem however as I have some spare binoculars which you would be welcome to borrow if you so desire and let me know in advance. Some of us also have telescopes which other members are very welcome to use.

If you are even vaguely interested please do not hesitate to contact me to express an interest or discuss whether it is for you. You can easily contact me using the icon on the BIRDING homepage

The BIRDING PROGRAMME FOR 2020 is

JANUARY 24th KEYHAVEN MARSHES

FEBRUARY 28th HAYLING OYSTER BEDS near PORTSMOUTH (HALF or FULL DAY)

MARCH 27th TITCHFIELD HAVEN near FAREHAM

MAY 1st FISHLAKE MEADOWS, ROMSEY

MAY 22nd LUCY HILL near BURLEY

JUNE 26th MARTIN DOWN, near FORDINGBRIDGE (HALF or FULL DAY)

JULY and AUGUST TBA

SEPTEMBER 25th HENGISTBURY HEAD (AM) optional STANPIT MARSHES (PM) HALF OR FULL DAY

OCTOBER 30th PAGHAM HARBOUR, West Sussex

NOVEMBER 27th BLASHFORD LAKES near RINGWOOD

DECEMBER 11th NORMANDY MARSHES near LYMINGTON then LUNCH at THE CHEQUERS

Fuller details will be circulated nearer the date of each field trip to those who have expressed interest.

Have a good year BIRDING

Chris

2-into-1	4th Wed-pm <i>Sheila W</i>	Genealogy	alt-1st Mon-pm <i>Celia T</i>
Arts and Crafts	4th Fri-pm <i>Celia T</i>	Handbells	2nd Mon-pm <i>Merrilyn D</i>
Birding	4th Fri-am <i>Chris M</i>	History	1st Wed-pm <i>Michael S</i>
Book Group 1	1st Mon-pm <i>Patricia B</i>	Latin	3rd Wed-pm <i>Sue C</i>
Book Group 2	1st Fri-am <i>Joy L</i>	Lunch	<i>Varies</i>
Book Group 3	2nd Thu-am <i>Theresa W</i>	Outings	<i>Jean R</i>
Bridge - Beginners	Wed-am <i>Patricia B</i>	Patient&Public Inv.	<i>Joy L</i>
Bridge - Improvers	Tue-am <i>Merrilyn D</i>	Pétanque	alt Wed-pm <i>Dave H</i>
Bus Pass Pals	<i>Judy W</i>	Play Reading	1st Wed-pm <i>Clive T</i>
Canasta	2nd Tue-pm <i>Annette H</i>	Scrabble	1st Tue-pm <i>Helen C</i>
Cinema Group	<i>John D</i>	Strollers	3rd Thu-am <i>John K</i> & <i>Linden K</i>
Classical Music Apprec	1st Fri-pm <i>John McF</i>	Table Tennis	Fri-am <i>Merrilyn D</i>
Discussion	3rd Mon-pm <i>Bill C</i>	Theatre Trips	<i>Joyce H</i>
French Conversation	2nd Tue-am <i>Annette H</i>	Upwords	alt Wed-pm <i>Dave H</i>
Gardening	1st Wed-am <i>Shelagh T</i>	Walking Group	1st Thu-am <i>David M</i> & <i>Geoff A</i>
Genealogy	alt-1st Mon-pm <i>Celia T</i>		

TOTTON SOUTH U3A



MONTHLY PROGRAMME

Nov 2019 to Dec 2020

We meet on the THIRD FRIDAY of each month. Arrival from 2pm, the meetings start at 2:30pm.

Meetings are held at
Colbury Memorial Hall, Main Road
Colbury, Southampton SO40 7EL



For further information or to contact us, search the internet for our website - 'Totton South U3A'

U3A HOLIDAY TO LYME REGIS - in September 2019

- Twenty-three members travelled to Lyme Regis for our U3A Group Holiday. Highlights of the week included Seaton and its splendid trams, Killerton House, the lovely Lyme Regis Seafront and Gardens (lit up at night), a strenuous walk along the Beer cliffs and a delightful stroll along the Budleigh Salterton river to lunch at Otterton Mill.
- Another great week at this spacious former hotel. Teams planned & served their choice of evening meal, while breakfasts & packed lunches were 'Do-It-Yourself'. Always a rush after each evening meal for board games, jigsaws, quizzes and our own bar. Thanks to all who came for their great humour and many contributions to its success.

LUNCHTIME PICNIC IN THE NEW FOREST - in September 2019

- Instead of the normal choice of a pub or restaurant, the U3A Lunch in September, 2019 was a Picnic in the New Forest. Eleven members enjoyed lunch at Anderwood near Burley - and the weather was kind to us! Thanks to Marie, Merrilyn & John for organising it.

MACULAR SOCIETY is our Charity Of The Year - from May 2019

- Our Charity of the Year 2019-2020 is the Macular Society who are the leading charity fighting to end sight loss caused by macular disease. This charity was proposed by Jane and was selected at our 2019 AGM to benefit from our charity fundraising in the current year.



CLIC SARGENT received our £551 Charity Cheque - in May 2019

- Our Charity of the Year 2018-2019 was CLIC Sargent. (CLIC stands for "Cancer & Leukaemia In Children"). This charity, proposed by Pat, was selected at our 2018 AGM to benefit from our charity fundraising. Liz from the charity came to our 2019 AGM and explained how our cheque would be put to good use.



U3A HOLIDAY TO CROATIA - in April 2019

- A Totton South group travelled to Croatia for our U3A Group Holiday in April 2019. The trip was organised by Clive and Sheila. At a subsequent Totton South U3A monthly meeting, Clive gave a presentation to us, including several photographs taken on the holiday.

TOTTON SOUTH SKILLS DAY - in March 2018

- Our sixth Skills Day was all planned, including new workshops such as Cartoon Drawing, Cryptic Crossword Solving, Map Reading, and Wild Bird Identification. Unfortunately, Totton was visited by the "Beast from the East", bringing several inches of very slippery snow, so we had to postpone the event for two weeks. Grateful thanks to all the workshop leaders, cake makers and other helpers who made this yet another Skills Day to remember.

2into1	<i>4th Wed-pm Sheila W</i>	Genealogy	<i>alt-1st Mon-pm Celia T</i>
Arts and Crafts	<i>4th Fri-pm Celia T</i>	Handbells	<i>2nd Mon-pm Merrilyn D</i>
Birding	<i>4th Fri-am Chris M</i>	History	<i>1st Wed-pm Terry F</i>
Book Group 1	<i>1st Mon-pm Patricia B</i>	Latin	<i>3rd Wed-pm Sue C</i>
Book Group 2	<i>1st Fri-am Joy L</i>	Lunch	<i>Varies</i>
Book Group 3	<i>2nd Thu-am Theresa W</i>	Outings	<i>Jean R</i>
Bridge - Beginners	<i>Wed-am Patricia B</i>	Patient&Public Involv	<i>Joy L</i>
Bridge - Improvers	<i>Tue-am Merrilyn D</i>	Pétanque	<i>alt Wed-pm Dave H</i>
Bus Pass Group	<i>Judy W</i>	Play Reading	<i>1st Wed-pm Clive T</i>
Canasta	<i>2nd Tue-pm Annette H</i>	Questors	<i>Contact name tba</i>
Cinema Group	<i>John D</i>	Scrabble	<i>1st Tue-pm Helen C</i>
Classical Music Apprec	<i>1st Fri-pm John McF</i>	Singing for Pleasure	<i>Maureen B 3rd Fri-am</i>
Discussion	<i>3rd Mon-pm Bill C</i>	Spanish	<i>Varies</i>
Embroidery	<i>2nd Tue-pm Sue C</i>	Strollers	<i>3rd Thu-am John & Linden K</i>
French Conversation	<i>2nd Tue-am Annette H</i>	Table Tennis	<i>Fri-am Merrilyn D</i>
Gardening	<i>1st Wed-am Shelagh T</i>	Theatre Trips	<i>Joyce H</i>
		Upwords	<i>alt Wed-pm Dave H</i>
		Walking Group	<i>1st Thu-am Chris M</i>
		Wine Appreciation	<i>Tony S</i>

TOTTON SOUTH U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

Nov 2018 to Dec 2019

**We meet on the THIRD FRIDAY
of each month. Arrival from 2pm,
the meetings start at 2:30pm.**

**Meetings are normally held at
Colbury Memorial Hall, Main Road
Colbury, Southampton SO40 7EL**

Note different venue for Apr, Jun, Oct



Totton South U3A

**For further information, and to
contact the Co-ordinators for our
Interest Groups, visit our website:
<https://www.u3asites.org.uk/totton-south>**

INTEREST GROUPS & CONTACTS

2into1	4thW-pm	Sheila W
Arts and Crafts	4thF-pm	Celia T
Bird Watching	4thF-am	Chris M
Book Group 1	1stM-pm	Patricia B
Book Group 2	1stF-am	Lynne G
Book Group 3	2ndTh-am	Theresa W
Bridge	Wed-am	Patricia B
Bridge Improvers	Tue-am	Merrilyn D
Bus Pass Group		Judy W
Canasta	2ndTu-pm	Annette H
Cinema Group		John D
Discussion Group	3rdM-pm	Bill C
Embroidery	2ndTu-pm	Sue C
French Conversation	2ndTu-am	Annette H
Gardening	1stW-am	Shelagh T
Genealogy	bi-1stM-pm	Celia T
Handbells	2ndM-pm	Merrilyn D
History	1stW-pm	Terry F
Latin	3rdW-pm	Sue C
Lunch		Various
MOOCs	1stTu-pm	Joy L
Outings		Contact
Patchwork	2ndTh-am	Lin P & Val
Patient & Public Involvement		Joy L
Play Reading	1stW-pm	Clive T.
Questors		Brian T
Scrabble	1stTu-pm	Helen C
Singing for Pleasure	3rdF-am	Maureen B.
Spanish	Tue-pm	June T
Strollers	3rdTh-am	Geoff A
Table Tennis	Fri-am	Merrilyn D
Theatre Trips		Joyce H
Upwords	altW-pm	Dave H
Walking Group	1stTh-am	Chris M
Wine Appreciation		Tony S

TOTTON SOUTH U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

Dec 2017 to Dec 2018

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Colbury, Southampton SO40 7EL**



Totton South U3A

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Bus Pass Group		Judy W
Canasta	2ndTu-pm	Annette H
Cinema Group		John D
Cribbage	altTh-pm	Gill M
Discussion Group	3rdM-pm	Bill C
Embroidery	2ndTu-pm	Sue C
French Convers'n	2ndTu-am	Annette H
Gardening	1stW-am	Shelagh T
Genealogy	bi-1stM-pm	Celia T.
Handbells	2ndM-pm	Merrilyn D
History	1stW-pm	Terry F
Latin	3rdW-pm	Sue C
Lunch		Various
MOOCs	1stTu-pm	Joy L
Outings		Kay S
Play Reading	1stW-pm	Clive T
Questors		Brian T
Scrabble		Helen C
Singing for Pleasure	3rdF-am	Clive T
Spanish	Tue-pm	June T
Strollers		Ann C / June J
Table Tennis	Fri-am	Merrilyn D
Theatre Trips		Joyce H
Upwords	3rdW-pm	Dave H
Walking Group	1stTh-am	Trevor R
Wine Appreciation		Tony S.

TOTTON SOUTH U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

Dec 2016 to Dec 2017

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Art	Celia T
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Book Group 1	Gill M
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Canasta	Annette H
Cinema Group	John D
Cribbage	Gill M
Discussion Group	Bill C
French Conversation	Annette H
Gardening	Shelagh T
Genealogy	Celia T
Handbells	Merrilyn D
History	Terry F
Latin	Sue C
Lunch	Various
MOOCs	Joy L
Outings	Kay S
Photography	Brian T
Play Reading	Clive T
Questors	Brian T
Scrabble/Upwords	Dave H
Singing for Pleasure	Clive T
Spanish	June T
Stitchery	Sue C
Strollers	Gill E
Table Tennis	Merrilyn D
Theatre Trips	Joyce H
Walking Group	Trevor R
Wine Appreciation	Tony S

TOTTON SOUTH U3A

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

May 2016 to January 2017

We meet on the **THIRD FRIDAY** of
each month from 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Meetings are held at
**Colbury Memorial Hall, Main Road
Colbury, Southampton SO40 7EL**



Totton South U3A

SKILLS WORKSHOP

Saturday 31st October 2015

-----This was the 4th Skills Workshop for Totton South U3A and was every bit as successful as the previous three. Linden K., Patricia B. and Merrilyn D. got together to plan the day and organise the catering. A variety of skills, most with a festive theme, were on offer. They included watercolour painting, drawing, beading, embroidered Christmas cards, paper-craft cards, sweets and petit fours, Christmas floral table decorations, patchwork and quilting and digital photo-editing. Each table was manned by one or more members of our U3A who had a skill they could share with others. The workshops have always been very hands-on and participants are encouraged to sign up in advance for two different workshops, one in the morning and another in the afternoon.

-----The day began at 10am with around forty U3A members accommodated at nine tables, and the hall was soon buzzing with industry and expectation. Coffee, tea and home-made cakes were served half way through the morning. However, even beautiful cakes couldn't keep people away from their tables for long and they were all soon back at work so that they could finish their morning projects before lunch. -----

Lunch was a simple ploughman's with crusty bread, tasty cheese, nice ham, pork pies (all served with a choice of home-made chutneys) salad items, and fresh fruit for dessert. There was plenty of chatter over lunch about what people had achieved during the morning, and the afternoon session started promptly at 1.30pm.

----- After another break mid-afternoon for more tea and home-made cake (you can never have too much cake!) the afternoon projects were finished and everyone went home having learnt a new skill, or brushed up on an old one, and very often taking with them something they had made during the day. The feedback from the day has, as always been very positive. Our members enjoy this opportunity to get together to share their expertise, to chat and get to know one another a little better. -----

Several people went out of their way to lend a hand with a number of housekeeping tasks, such as checking arrivals, arranging the room, serving refreshments and lunches, putting chairs and tables away and generally clearing up at the end of the day and I am extremely grateful to them all for their unstinting help.

If I have one regret about our skills workshops, it is that we have been unable to offer more workshops run by men and offering skills that appeal primarily to men. Come on you chaps! What are your hobbies? Are there any model makers among you, or wood whittlers or even model train enthusiasts? I am sure some of you are hiding your hobby lights under the proverbial bushel, so let us see them next time!

Merrilyn D.

2015 - Walking Holiday - Return to Lyme Regis

----- Having very much enjoyed a previous walking holiday near Lyme Regis, a group of U3A walkers decided to revisit Orchard House at Rousdon for a short break at the beginning of September. There were 17 of us comfortably housed in this spacious and convenient ex-private hotel, now let as a self-catering holiday home. We were very well fed by Linden, who valiantly offered to be cook in charge, who planned the menus, made sure that everyone's dietary tastes were catered for and who produced tasty two course dinners for seventeen people, assisted by a couple of our less able walkers. We thought she and her kitchen helpers deserved a break on one of the evenings so we all went out to the Ship Inn at Axmouth for a pub meal.

The walks were discussed with John K., our walking leader, the previous evening and suitable arrangements were made for anyone less able to tackle a full day's walking. The weather was absolutely glorious. We couldn't have wished for better. We had blue sky, sunshine, temperatures that were not too hot for walking, and some of the most perfect views that Southern England has to offer. It didn't even really matter when on one occasion some of us got a bit ahead of the rest and walked a few extra miles in completely the wrong direction!

We spent convivial evenings with lots of laughs, taking part in a somewhat mentally taxing quiz, playing board games, playing cards or even learning the infamous Crockinole game, brought back from Canada by John and Merrilyn (and if you don't know what that is, you may well find out soon enough).

The days went by all too quickly and we were all quite sad to leave for our drive home at the end of the holiday. Would we do it again? Very probably, but perhaps in an area of the country with rather fewer hills!

Merrilyn D.