

STILL WANTED

NEW INTEREST GROUPS

If you have an idea for a group, please let anybody on the committee know. Just because you think of something, it doesn't mean to say you have to be the group leader (but it would help!).

Qualifications not required.

The committee will help to get it set up and advertise to all members about your group. To comply with the u3a mantra - Learn, Laugh, Live – there needs to be an aspect of learning something...

**You are a star bursting with knowledge
This is your year to sparkle**



Tuesday 7th May
Henstridge Village Hall,
BA8 0QB
Doors open 2.15pm
Speaker 3.00pm

A talk by
David Boag
photographer

The Secret Wood
A 365-Day Journey in the
British Countryside

Looks like a few ladybirds want to come to the talk!



VOUNTEERS WANTED

To run the kitchen during the meetings. Until now, interest groups take turns in manning the refreshments. The committee have come to the conclusion that due to the small number of groups we now have, a dedicated Refreshments Team to run the kitchen every month will be in order. A minimum of three people will be needed with no upper limit. You could arrange to take turns between yourselves. Expenses will be paid.

Naturally, cake and biscuit donations will still be wanted.

Please contact Susan to volunteer.

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

We have only had one trip since the beginning of the year, as the trip to Kingston Lacey NT in February was cancelled, due to the wet weather, which was a shame.

In March we did manage to visit two different NGS Open Gardens, in Charlton Musgrove and then Pen Selwood and 20 members came along, even though the weather was again cold and windy. At least we managed some lovely home-made cakes with our coffee inside a nice warm barn at the first garden!

In April we are going slightly further afield to an NGS Open Garden near Beaminster, Dorset and I am expecting a similar number to attend, so are looking forward to it and hope the weather is kind to us, on this trip. We also have trips for May and June already organised, which is good.

We had another high turnout (of 20 members) at our monthly Coffee Morning earlier this month, at our usual venue. Also, our newest member came along, so was introduced to everyone there. This is our 30th member, which means we are now full and fortunately, we don't have anyone on the 'waitlist' at the present time, so good news!



Jan Nast



LUNCH CLUB

Our February lunch at The Green Man in Kings Stag was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The food was tasty, the service excellent and the company enjoyable .

In April we had another good pub lunch at The Ship in West Stour. Again the food was very tasty, a good variety of choice and the set menu was judged good value. We had a room to ourselves which made conversation easier. Both of these pubs went out of their way to accommodate our requests and both made custard for us although it was not on the menu. We would recommend both of them to all of you

In March we had a most enjoyable Lunch at Home. It was so nice to welcome two new members and, needless to say, the lunch was varied and very tasty.

Here is Jan Yilmaz's recipe for Spanakopita or Spinach Pie

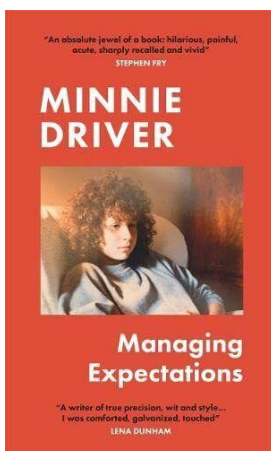
- 1 packet of fresh or frozen phyllo pastry
 - 2lbs fresh spinach
 - 1 large onion
 - 1/2lb of halloumi or feta cheese
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup extra virgin oil + spinach water for brushing phyllo
 - Pepper to taste
- **To make the filling**
 - Chop onion finely. Put 1 tbsp olive oil in a large pan, sauté onion for 5 minutes, add spinach stir
 - until wilted. Set aside to cool. Grate halloumi or feta, whip up the eggs, mix with cheese. Squeeze all the water out of the spinach (otherwise you will have a soggy pie) then add it to cheese and mix well.
- **Assembling the pie**
 - Grease pie dish with olive oil. Mix water from spinach with 1 cup of olive oil. Take one sheet of phyllo, lay it in the pie dish and brush with oil & water mix. Repeat layering and brushing with olive oil mix until you have done half the phyllo.
 - Spread the filling evenly across the pan
 - Start spreading the top layers, brush each layer with olive oil mix as before. Brush the top layer too.
 - Ready for the oven at 250 for 40 minutes or until top is brown
 - Delicious.





READING GROUP

Managing Expectations Minnie Driver



This book was reviewed as hilarious by a radio book club but none of us found it so. Some enjoyed it, particularly her younger life, and the death of her mother as moving but a few others were bored by it and others regarded it 'as an exercise in self-indulgence.' It all depends on your taste.

From now on it will appear that we are not reading so many books. Actually, each group is still reading one book a month but owing to rising costs we have had to economise. Now the book the first group reads is passed on to the second group instead of them having a different book. Such is life these days.



WALKING GROUPS

We have two walking groups: one walks on the third Wednesday of the month and the other on the last Tuesday. The groups do the same walk each month.

In January, the walk started in Sandford Orcas and, due to the wet ground, followed lanes to Rimpton and thence back to Sandford Orcas. The Wednesday group enjoyed a meal at The Mitre Inn; the Tuesday group ate at The Ash in Henstridge as The Mitre is closed on a Tuesday. Fortunately, the weather was dry for both walks and we were able to admire the snowdrops growing at the roadside in several places.

The February walk was to be from Ansty and around the countryside. This was a lovely, but somewhat muddy, walk when it was reconnoitred, but the weather intervened with lots of rain, so a different walk was selected – from Fiddleford, through Piddles Wood, on to Broad Oak, thence to Sturminster Newton and back via the Trailway to Fiddleford where we enjoyed our lunch. Unfortunately, it was raining heavily for the Wednesday group, so this had to be cancelled, but the Tuesday group managed the walk.

The March Walk was planned to be a circular route from Bradford Abbas to Thornford, on to Yetminster, then back to Bradford Abbas. However, when the reconnoitre was done, the ground was found to be extremely wet and the fields were very muddy, slippery and under water in places. This was deemed unsuitable, so an alternative route from Old Wardour Castle was selected. This was wet – there's a theme here – but enjoyable with relatively gentle walking and pleasing views. Both groups were able to do this walk and both ate at the King's Arms near East Stour.



The above is most of the walkers at Old Wardour Castle following the walk.
The April walk will be from Ashmore so that we can see some bluebells.



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Over the last few months I have become involved with various other groups and activities each one making demands on my time. I have therefore decided that with immediate effect I will resign as group leader and take no further part in the groups activities. Thank you for understanding.

David



History Tour



The Stalbridge Village Hall was packed recently for the presentation of 'The Stalbridge Hoard' which included a gem encrusted rapier.

As part of our 10th Anniversary Celebrations, come and find out what other gems Stalbridge has to offer up. Join a walk guided by the Stalbridge Historical Society on **Saturday 18th May**.

Meeting at 10.30am in the car park opposite **The Hub, Station Road, Stalbridge, DT10 2RG**.

To book a free place contact Susan

SKITTLES NIGHT

In March the Blackmore Vale Oddfellows skittles night was enjoyed by members of our own u3a. This was at the Swan in Stalbridge and Andy the landlord cooked us up a treat of lamb shanks, dauphinoise potatoes and a selection of vegetables. The pics below are of the top scorers and lowest scorers (not winners and losers!).

Judy





Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

May 7th

David Boag, photographer

The Secret Wood

A 365-Day Journey in the British Countryside

Saturday May 18th

MEMBERS ONLY

Historical Walk, Stalbridge

July 2nd

MEMBERS ONLY

14.30 Michael Malagan, scriptwriter

Focusing on the funny side

Followed by

15.30 Anniversary Cream Tea

September 3rd

Open Day – no speaker

Friday September 27th

MEMBERS ONLY

Historical Walk, Milborne Port

November 5th

Brita Wood

Blackmore Vale Stationmasters

Highlighted events consist of our 10th Anniversary celebrations. Regrettably, due to limited numbers allowed, these have to be restricted to members of Blackmore Vale u3a only.

