



OPEN AFTERNOON

3rd September

2.30-4.00pm

Henstridge Village Hall

New for this year, we are having a speaker!

John Kilcourse will discuss the role of Men's Shed in the Community.

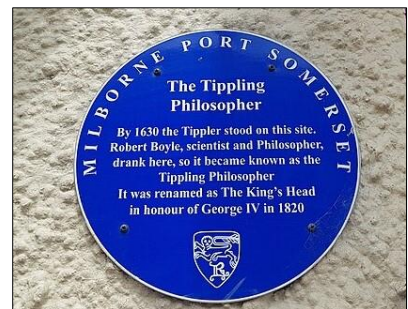
Please join us for a glass of wine and chat to our talented group leaders, see what they do and share your ideas.

Become a member in September and get three months for free.

Places are still available for our 10th Anniversary Historical Walk Day in Milborne Port

Friday 27th September 2024

Led by Milborne Port Historical & Heritage Society Book at bvmembership@outlook.com



<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>
A walk around the old minster enclosure	A walk to the museum via East Street
Lunch in the Tippling Philosopher or elsewhere	A personalised tour of the museum
A walk to the museum via East Street & personalised tour	A walk to Coldharbour, then North Street
A walk to Coldharbour, North Street & back to the Ball Court in the High Street	Lunch in the Tippling Philosopher or elsewhere
	A walk around the old minster enclosure

Information will be given for visiting the areas of Newtown & Lower Kingsbury



Pub Lunch Club



We decided to try The Creamery at Castle Cary Station. This is a new venture of The Newt. They have made a fine renovation of a 1912 dairy and it now has a very pleasant garden as well. The interior has a resemblance in places to a railway carriage of a past era. Cream and butter etc are made there where you can watch them working behind glass. We went for breakfast but it turned out to be brunch by the time we were served. It was an enjoyable meal with an interesting menu to choose from and the food was tasty. Sadly, and the service was slow. However, it is a new venture with new staff and it takes time to settle down. Although no-one is raring to get back there it is an interesting venue worth a visit. Car parking has fortunately been negotiated at a low rate.

In July we visited The Crown in East Stour which was a new venue for many of us. The building is old and attractive, the staff efficient and helpful and the menu adequate. Apart from the breakfast, lunch and evening menus there are menus for Senior Citizens, Kids and a Sunday lunch. All are very reasonably priced and the portions quite generous. Altogether we would thoroughly recommend this pub.



Jean L.



Reading Group

We have read some interesting books.



The Blink of an Eye
Cath Staincliffe

This is a good read and shows the consequences of a moment's inattention when driving. A good read with some food for thought.

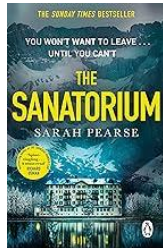
Hamnet
Maggie o'Farrell

Another good read, a historical fiction novel. Hamnet Shakespeare (1585-1596) was the only son of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway. How much of this book is imagined and how much we can definitely take as the truth we will never know but Maggie O'Farrell does as much research as she can and always tells a good tale.



A Ladies Guide to Fortune Hunting
 Louise Burke

As you may know Louise Burke is the daughter of Mike Burke MD of the Gardens Group. This is her first novel and had been well received. It is an amusing, light and entertaining. Just right for a holiday read. Louise has written a second book in the same vein.

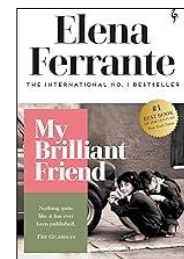


Sanatorium
 Sarah Pearse

This book was reminiscent of an Agatha Christie but it somehow seemed to get out of hand and became almost ridiculous by the end. However, some people found it a bit frightening Not the best horror story.

My Brilliant Friend
 Elena Ferrante

This book has received high praise in other quarters but the general opinion of both groups was tedious, boring and irritating. Nobody actually disliked it but we found it needed determination to read to the end. It is the first book of a trilogy about two girls. This book cover approximately their first 18 years. Not one of us wants to read the other two books.



Answer to the July issue Sudoku:

2	8	6	4	5	7	3	9	1
9	4	3	2	8	1	5	7	6
1	7	5	3	9	6	4	2	8
3	6	2	5	4	9	8	1	7
8	9	7	1	6	3	2	5	4
5	1	4	7	2	8	6	3	9
7	2	1	6	3	4	9	8	5
4	5	9	8	1	2	7	6	3
6	3	8	9	7	5	1	4	2

The nine-letter word in the Word Wheel was 'sunbather'.

Saturday 5th October 7pm
The Oddfellows Blackmore
Vale Branch
vs
Blackmore Vale u3a
Skittle Fun Night
 £10
 With Hot Supper (proper food, not chips!)
At The Swan, Stalbridge
 Email jood58@gmail.com to book
 your spot
 There will be a Raffle in aid of the
 Wedmore Village Farm



Report on 10th Anniversary Cream Tea

The Blackmore Vale u3a celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2024 by having a cream tea after the planned talk for May.

The room was decorated with bunting, table cloths were spread and a small vase of flowers was placed on each table. Each member present was also given an anniversary pen. We placed the tables in a U shape so we just had to turn chairs for the talk.

We had our talk before eating our tea. This was given by Michael Malaghan who gave us a talk entitled "*It shouldn't happen to a writer*" where he related tales based on his working career as a journalist in local newspapers. His style was very relaxed and I think everyone smiled at least once during his talk. It was a very fitting talk for the occasion.

One of our members, Carol Ames, made all the scones in the morning so they were beautiful and fresh. Many people commented that they were the lightest they had ever tasted. Thank you, Carol. We were all given both a fruit scone and a plain one with clotted cream and jam available on the tables. I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed them – I know I certainly did. I'm sure we all send a big thank you to the person making the scones and to the committee for making the room and tables look so lovely.

Hilary



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 July, we had an away day and, on this occasion, the two groups combined. The away day walk is a longer walk than usual as we do part of the walk before lunch and the rest afterwards and it is normally in an area where we do not normally walk.

On this occasion, we shared cars and drove to the Brassknocker Basin car park. The walk was a circular route from the canal basin by the Dundas Aquaduct at Limpley Stoke, through Monkton Combe, around Limpley Stoke to the Avoncliff Aquaduct and back along the canal towpath. (For those new to the area, this is the Kennet & Avon Canal; Brassknocker Basin is near Bath).

Fortunately, the weather was good – sunny but not too hot. We had one climb which was in the shade, but quite an ascent, however after this it was pretty much downhill or level. After walking for just over an hour, we came across the lovely Freshford Community Café where we stopped for coffee and cake. The views along the walk were

stunning, particularly from the high ground. We continued for another 45 minutes or so to the Cross Guns pub at Avoncliff, where we had lunch and a seat overlooking the river and its associated wildlife.

The final leg was along the canal and we finished up by going into a café on the canal where we had tea / coffee or ice cream.



The pictures show some of the group in the pub garden by the river after lunch and a view of the river from the Dundas Aqueduct.



The August Walk started and finished in Henstridge, and circumnavigated Inwood House. The group assembled outside the Bird in Hand and proceeded down Blackmoor Lane, continuing along Plott Lane until reaching Marsh Road. Turning left, we crossed the A30 and walked some way along Park lane, avoiding three muck spreaders, until we came to a footpath on our left heading towards Yenston. We continued to Yenston and followed Chapel Lane for a while, turning to the left just before the end.

At this point, we took a short break.

We then walked across fields to reach the gates to Inwood House, the final field having cattle which one member enjoyed talking to.



We walked through the gates and then forked right to head towards the A30 and Henstridge again. Lunch was taken at the Bird in Hand, Henstridge,

The September Walk is planned to be from Plush to Lyscombe Hill / Bottom on September 18th for the Wednesday Group and September 24th for the Tuesday Group. However, the route may change!



Garden Visits



We are having a busy summer season so far, and have had a couple of very good trips recently, plus, of course, the monthly coffee morning, which are always well attended. The last trip we had (back in July) was to a beautiful privately owned garden in Marnhull. This was a private visit, arranged just for our group, which was lovely, as the owners took us around the garden themselves and explained how they had designed and built it over the past four years. They also provided us with a delicious tea, along with home-made cakes.

I have also organised another private visit for this month (22nd Aug) to an NGS garden over in Thornford. There are 22 of us booked to go, so will give a report on this in the next Newsletter.

Our last coffee morning earlier this month was held at the newly re-located 'Thyme After Time' cafe, which is now based down Station Road in Stalbridge. This was well attended with 14 members there. It is a lot smaller than the previous cafe, so we will review the situation after we have been back again in September (Mon 1st Sept). Brita will be 'hosting' this, plus the next garden visit later in September, which she will give full details of at that meeting.

We are also having the usual stand at the forthcoming 'u3a Open Day' which is on Tuesday 2nd Sept, which I hope members will come along to (Brita will also be manning this stand, as I'm away on holiday!).

We still have the maximum number of 30 members, with no-one currently on the 'waitlist', so it's going really well!
Jan.



This month – a quiz provided by member Lorraine Williams
Name the Flower

Industrious queen	
Bovine takes a tumble	
They seek him here, they seek him there	
She's close to her pupil	
Court enclosure for prisoner	
Found at the forge	
A virtue	
What's the story	
To keep Basil's paws warm	
Mrs Bucket	
Used to thicken sauces	
Lest we forget	
Lass of the vale	
Reflect upon oneself	
Receptacle for dairy produce	
Such a good boy	
Popeye's boy	
Grandad's facial hair	
A new one sweeps clean	
Goes well with trifle	

Answers in the next newsletter.



Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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.

2025

Provisional bookings

January 14th
Quiz

March 4th
Julia Holman
'Lock 'em up or let 'em out'
How the Parole Board Works

May 6th
David Grierson
Asian Adventures

July 1st
Giles Henschel
Revisiting Olive Groves Around the Med

September 9th
Open Afternoon

November 4th
Matthew Scott
Being a Fireman

