



5TH NOVEMBER
STATION MASTERS
 OF THE VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN ERAS

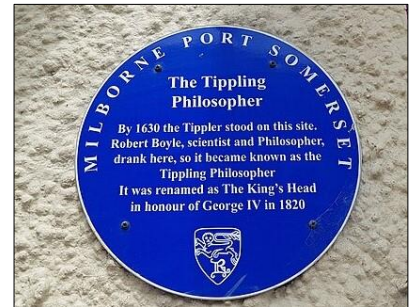
AN AMUSING TALK BY
BRITA WOOD

OPEN FROM 2.15PM FOR REFRESHMENTS
 TALK AT 3PM

On the railway today stationmasters have become extinct, like many small stations. Everything you need to know about the life of a stationmaster will be revealed in the conclusion of our romp through the area in this 10th Anniversary year of Blackmore Vale u3a. Brita Wood's talk on the Stationmasters of Blackmore Vale will give a unique insight into this role.

One or two places are still available for our 10th Anniversary Historical Walk Day in Milborne Port
Friday 8th November 2024

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



Group 1	Group 2
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



This month, October, we lunched at The White Lion in Bourton. It is tucked away on a quiet country lane in a beautiful old building dating from 1712 and only 20 minutes from Henstridge I am told.

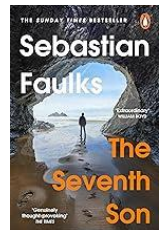
Everyone seemed to enjoy it several wishing to return soon. The menu is large enough to suit all tastes and they are pleased to alter things for people with special requests. The service was a little slow but there were 12 of us which does make things more difficult for them. We would strongly recommend The White Lion.



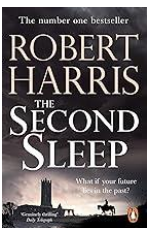
Reading Group

The Seventh Son
Sebastian Faulks

When a young woman named Talissa answers an advert to carry a child she cannot begin to imagine the consequences. A very interesting plot set up by Faulks. It shows how those with huge amounts of money think they can ignore the law and play with people's lives. It asks just because you can do something does it mean you should? Faulks always write a good story and this was enjoyable. We all found it a good read but some of us didn't feel quite comfortable with the ending.



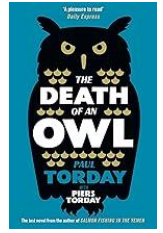
The Second Sleep
Robert Harris



In 1468 Christopher Fairfax, a young priest, arrives in a remote Exmoor village where he has been sent to conduct the funeral of his predecessor. The land around is strewn with ancient artefacts which the old parson used to collect. Did his obsession lead to his death? As Fairfax is drawn into the isolated community, everything he believes in is tested to destruction. A fascinating tale if a little confusing to start with, it is well worth a read to the end.

The Death of an Owl
Paul and Piers Torday

Andrew Langford is driving home one night, along a dark country lane, when a barn owl flies into his windscreen. It is an accident, nothing more, but barn owls are a protected species and killing one is a crime. The consequences of this accident are widespread and devastating to many. Paul Torday wrote most of this tale and considered it his best but unfortunately died before had finished it. His son, Piers, knew how much his father wanted this book published but did not know how his father wanted it to end. He finished it but whether it was a seamless passing over of authorship is up to you to decide. Definitely a good read.



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 normally do the same walk each month.

In September, our walk started in Bruton. This is always entertaining because car parking can be a problem, so we shared cars where possible and a rendezvous point was agreed beforehand. Fortunately, despite traffic and people parking in different places, we all met up successfully. This is No.32 in the *50 Walks in Somerset* book (with slight modifications). The walk is about 7.5 km, 4.5 miles, and took us around 2.5 hours. It starts on the lane alongside the river in Bruton and continues on footpaths through woods and over farmland, climbing steadily until open



countryside is reached. There are lovely views at this point and the ground levels. We continued along farm lanes, going down and up again still enjoying the views, ending up in Bruton at the Sun Inn for lunch. For those of you not acquainted with this hostelry, it has a traditional pub menu, but it specialises in Persian food which is wonderful. Most of the Wednesday group had the Persian food and I think everyone enjoyed it. It is strongly recommended. As the weather was good, we were able to sit in their outside courtyard at the back to eat. A lovely end to a very pleasant walk.

The October walk was all but rained off for the Wednesday walkers, but four hardy souls managed to get across the very wet terrain and at one point, the clouds lifted to allow us a bit of a view. We met in the car park of the Crown Inn, Marnhull and set out in light rain. The first part of the walk is through a farmyard and out into the country on a hard farm track, so was easy going. Things got harder once we hit the footpath to Hinton St Mary as the paths were either very muddy, very wet or both! However, we completed the route and were pleased to be greeted by two members of the group who had not walked but joined us for lunch. Somebody else's wife joined us so we were a nice group of seven for lunch. As a result of the conditions and because of more rain, it was decided to change the route for the Tuesday group.

Members will meet at the Gainsborough Arms in Milborne Port. This pub has changed hands recently and, although normally closed on a Tuesday, they will be opening for us to have lunch there – many thanks for that. The walk will go through Newtown and out onto the west ridge going northwards, crossing the railway and out onto the road from Osborne, following this past 3-Arch Bridge and the egg farm to Milborne Wick. Turning south taking Wick Road towards Milborne Port and lunch at the Gainsborough Arms.

The November walks are on 20th November for the Wednesday Group and 26th November for the Tuesday Group, and are planned to be from Okeford Hill through Blandford Forest, near to the Airman's Grave and back. However, the route may change! The December walk will be a combined walk for both groups on Wednesday 18th December. As the terrain is usually wet at this time of year, we normally walk on a road-based route, yet to be determined.

Hilary and Richard



Skittles Night



The Skittles Fun Night in October at the Swan in Stalbridge proved to be a great success with the organiser panicking the week before with numbers dropping like flies, but all was not lost, last minute bookings and surprise visitors made up the numbers to 22.

Andy the landlord

cooked up a storm with homemade steak and ale pie, baby potatoes and a selection of vegetables. Oh, and gravy. There

was a homemade vegetable quiche as well. Prizes were awarded to the top and bottom scorers

and a raffle was held in aid of the Wedmore Village Farm. Even though the event was organised by the Oddfellows, they were vastly outnumbered by u3a members!

Judy



Garden Visits



We have had a couple of very good trips over the past two months, the first of which was 'Donhead Hall' over in Wiltshire, which Brita ran in September in my absence (as I was on holiday). I then ran the October trip to 'Holme for Gardens' down near Wareham, Dorset. This was well attended, with 12 members enjoying coffee, tour of the garden, lunch, then shopping in both the garden centre and farm shop there.

Our last monthly coffee morning was moved across to William's Cafe in Dikes, which was a lot more spacious than Thyme After Time, so everyone who attended did seem to prefer it, which is good.

At the recent open day back in September, Brita managed



to enrol a new member for the group and as one member has just recently left, we were able to transfer her from the waitlist onto our permanent list, so we are still full at 30 members.



The next dates of interest in November are as follows:

- Mon 4th- next coffee morning at Dikes Cafe
- Fri 22nd - trip to Kimbers Farm/lunch (instead of a garden visit)

I am also currently in the process of looking for a suitable venue for our Annual Lunch, which will be in January.

Jan

(Pics taken at Holme for Gardens)

Museum Visit – The Fossil Museum

We had a fascinating afternoon in Osborne in a converted barn which houses Wolfgang Grulke's magnificent collection of prehistoric artefacts. Wolfgang has been collecting for over fifty years and is now looking for a new home for his treasures where "people will be astonished and fuel their curiosity."

Artefacts include the world's largest uncoiled ammonite, an entire ichthyosaurus skeleton and huge clusters of marine fossils that were discovered high in the Alps. There is a back wall of cabinets which has fossils from 500 million years ago, to the time the ammonites died out with the dinosaurs 66 million years ago.

Nautilus, an ancient marine mollusc is both extant and extinct and characterised by involute or more or less convolute shells that are generally smooth. Having survived relatively unchanged for hundreds of millions of years nautilus represents the only living members of the sub class nautiloidea and are often considered 'living fossils'. If you want to know how to survive a catastrophe ask only Nautilus. They and their ancestors have thrived for 500 million years and lived through five mass extinctions.

This was truly a remarkable experience and I urge you to see the collection before Wolfgang moves it elsewhere, maybe abroad.

Sir David Attenborough commented: "I am - truly - lost for words."

Annie



Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

2025

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

June
Brass Band Concert
Details tba

July 1st
Michael Malagan
'Can you hear me at the back?'
An amusing story about the funnier side of being a public speaker

July
Visit to Hawkers Farm Crafts
Details tba

September 9th
Open Afternoon

November 4th
Matthew Scott
Being a Fireman

