



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE
IN NOW**

£15.00 or £11.50 if you bring proof of
Membership of another u3a branch.
Group Leaders & Committee Members £7.50

Cheques payable to Blackmore Vale U3A
(Please contact Gill Westall for postal
address)

We are now able to take membership
payments by debit or credit card – in
person only. This can be done at the
general meeting.

If you wish to pay by bank transfer:
Blackmore Vale U3A
Barclays Bank
sort code: 20 99 40
account: 03388832
please use your surname and membership
number as the reference then email
bvmembership@outlook.com to say you have
done this.

Tuesday 14th January
Henstridge Village Hall
3.00pm
doors open 2.15pm



**Grand Winter
Quiz**

Arranged by
Paul

IMPORTANT NOTICE

2025 AGM 4th March

As required, each year, all the committee members will be standing down at the AGM. However, MOST will not be standing for re-election this year.

This means that if at least **three** new members are not found before the AGM, then Blackmore Vale u3a will have to close, as there will not be enough committee members to run it effectively and legally.

To keep this u3a alive PLEASE consider joining the committee. If you would like more information about what the committee does contact one of our committee members below to discuss this with them.

Susan Kidd - 07484104324
Gill Westall.-.07976806726
Judy Penfold.-.07984170571
Helen Lennon.-.07434953255
Hilary Smith.-.07724621732
Lin Allison.-.07410046773

If a new full committee is elected at the AGM, then Blackmore Vale u3a will continue.

However, if there are less than **five** members remaining on the committee at the AGM their powers will be limited to filling vacancies on the committee or calling an Extraordinary General Meeting to dissolve the Blackmore Vale u3a.

Susan Kidd
Chairwoman



Also 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...



READING GROUP

Some of you may already know that our lovely group leader, Jean Lindley, for the reading groups, will be moving out of the area soon and therefore cannot continue in her role as group leader.

Therefore, if somebody from the group would like to take this role on, please do make a start, then get in touch with any of the committee to let us know who you are!

On the other hand, if there are any members currently not part of the reading groups would like to try their hand at organising this group, please contact the committee and we will do what we can to help.



Milborne Port Historical Walk.

About 21 members met in the Tippling Philosopher in Milborne Port for this interesting day. Lesley Wray, the Historian from Milborne Port History and Heritage Group, gave us a short talk and then led us round some of the southern parts of Milborne Port starting with the Ball Court and the Parish Church, explaining their history. She then took the group round some of the older parts of the village in the area around the church and down to the river. This included Cannon Court residence and the farm, also the original vicarage dating from the 17th (??) century.

Several of us then had lunch in the Tippling Philosopher which was welcome as the weather was cool, but dry. Not everyone could stay for the afternoon session but those who did were taken by three of Lesley's colleagues in turn; first, past the old cottages on East Street, which is thought to be the original route of the main road from Salisbury, and on to the small museum run by the History Group in Wheathill Lane. This was very interesting and, amongst other things, detailed the history of glove making in Milborne Port with many artefacts they have been given. After that the party walked along North Street to the centre of the village again. It was a very interesting day and we do appreciate the effort the History Group made to organise it for us. If anyone is interested in visiting the museum it is usually open on some Sunday afternoons during the summer.

Hilary, Gill, Ian.



GARDEN VISITS GROUP

Looking back on 2024, I would say that it has been a very successful year, with lots of good trips, events, coffee mornings and lunches.

It started off well in Jan '24 with our Annual Lunch at the local pub (*The Virginia Ash*, Henstridge), which the majority of members did attend and also enjoyed. During the year, we had a very varied programme - organised by myself and Brita, which included NGS, RHS and NT gardens. The trips in the Spring were slightly further afield, but those in the Summer and Autumn were a lot more local.

Our monthly Coffee Mornings were originally held at Thyme After Thyme, just outside Stalbridge, but when they re-located to a smaller Cafe (in a converted warehouse in the village), we realised after a couple of meetings that it was just too small. We looked around for a local alternative and decided to change to William's Cafe, in Dikes, Stalbridge. This is now held in their nice conservatory area (on the first Monday of the month), at the rear of the Cafe, which they cordon off for our group, so it is perfect for us! The next one there will be on Monday 6th January 2025 at 1100 as usual.

The first main event of 2025 is again our Annual Lunch which will be at The Stapleton Arms, Buckhorn Weston (on: Thurs 23rd January), which around 26 members have already signed up for, which is good!

We are still full with 30 members, with no-one currently on the waitlist, so it's a very positive end to 2024.

Jan



WALKING GROUPS

As you know, 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. The November Walk for both groups followed the Jubilee Trail



from Durweston past Shepherd's Corner Farm and into Field Grove Wood. A diversion from the marked Trail took us to the memorial for Pilot Officer John Frederick Woodward Allen who was killed on the 29th of November 1940 at the age of 19 when the Spitfire he was piloting crashed, hitting a tree at this

location. Somehow, the Tuesday Group omitted this diversion. We rejoined the Jubilee Trail (in the opposite direction) for a short distance before a short stretch on lane before proceeding, via Websley Farm, back to Durweston. Lunch was taken at The Fiddleford Inn.

The December Walk is a combined event for both groups. This walk is customarily on lanes, as conditions on footpaths tend to be too wet and muddy.

Leaders always survey proposed routes before the walking date. The need for such reconnaissance was





highlighted when Hilary and I checked out the proposed December route from Milborne Port to Milborne Wick shortly after the heavy rainfall at the end of November. At the railway bridge near Laycock Farm there was flood water right across the lane to a depth of several inches, certainly over the tops of our boots. Fortunately, a local farmer and his tractor came to our rescue (see pictures) and enabled us to continue our survey of the route.

Conditions were somewhat drier on the date of the actual walk with the water only a few millimetres deep in the centre of the lane. 18 walked as planned, followed by the usual excellent Christmas buffet for 21 in the skittle alley at the Bird in Hand.

A planning meeting for 2025 has been held and a provisional programme will be sent to group members within the next few weeks. Others, who are interested in joining us, can receive a copy by emailing me. Richard Kidd (richardakidd64@gmail.com)



BRIDGE GROUP



Just to let you all know that the Bridge group, which meets on alternate Monday afternoons, enjoyed a very jolly Christmas lunch followed by some challenging hands of bridge on 2nd December.

This report was compiled on behalf of Group Leader Howard Warden 01963 363257, by Susan Kidd who wants to know why she did not win a prize for accumulating minus 4,500 points with her partner.

Thank you, Howard, for the many enjoyable hours of playing.



Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

All talks and meetings are held in
Henstridge Village Hall from 2.15pm

January 14th

Paul's Great Winter Quiz

March 4th

AGM

and

Julia Holman

'Lock 'em up or let 'em out'

How the Parole Board Works

May 6th

David Grierson

Asian Adventures

July 1st

Michael Malagan

'Can you hear me at the back?'

An amusing story about the funnier side of being a public speaker

September 9th

Open Afternoon

November 4th

Matthew Scott

Being a Fireman



the **ODDFELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

In addition, The Oddfellows events listed here welcome all u3a members

15th March – Skittles at the Swan, Stalbridge, 7pm. £10 to include a hot supper.

29th June - Oddfellows Brass, concert in Stalbridge Hall 3pm (BVu3a have kindly offered to supply cake and beverages in the interval) £10.

4th October – Skittles at the Swan, Stalbridge £tba (provisional)

**Booking is essential for all Oddfellows events. Please book with Judy
jood58@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.

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