

## 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. Administration for both groups is carried out by Hilary Smith and myself and the Wednesday group is normally led by either or both of us, supported as necessary by other members of the group. Leading of Tuesday group walks is by members of the group.

The January walk for both groups was intended to be a circular route from the St James' area of Shaftesbury. Unfortunately, the Tuesday walk was cancelled because of poor weather conditions. The Wednesday group started up a steepish incline through the park to enjoy the extensive views northwards from Castle Hill and southwards from the viewpoint outside the Abbey ruins. A twenty-five minute break was taken in the town while some members visited shops in the town and others took refreshments in the Salt Celler café at the top of Gold Hill before descending the hill and proceeding on lanes to the south, returning to St James where most took lunch.

In February the Wednesday walk was in and around Yeovil Country Park and the Barwick and Aldon estates starting at the Pen Mill Hotel, following the path along the river before ascending the steep footpath up Summerhouse Hill before a moderate descent to the "Jack the Treacle-Eater" folly with its figure of Mercury (or Hermes). Returning up the hill towards Yeovil we passed another folly, the "Fish Tower". Both follies were erected for the then owner of the Barwick Estate in the 18th century, John Newman. Having crossed the lane and entered the Alden Estate, we descended towards the Nine Springs area of the Country Park, following the stream up and then back. Several members of the group were previously unaware of this scenic and tranquil area. We then returned to the Pen Mill, where most took lunch. It is hoped that the Tuesday group will complete this walk later in the month after this newsletter has gone to print.

Richard Kidd ([richardakidd64@gmail.com](mailto:richardakidd64@gmail.com))



**March 4<sup>th</sup>  
AGM  
3.00pm**

**HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

Followed by

**Giles Henschel  
Olives Et Al**

Who will be talking about his trip  
to the Olive groves in the  
Mediterranean and the effect of  
climate change



## GARDEN VISITS GROUP



This year has started off really well for our Group, with the annual lunch in mid-January at The Stapleton Arms, Buckhorn Weston, where 24 of us enjoyed a delicious meal. The landlord and landlady were extremely welcoming to our group and the service was excellent.

We also had a very well-attended first coffee morning at Dikes in early February, where 21 members attended, which was a record! We

discussed options for future trips, the first of which was on Saturday 15th February, where a group of ten went to The Springhead Trust, in Fontmell Magna, to see their snowdrop display. There were originally 20 of us due to go, but as the weather was so wet and overcast the numbers dropped. Those of us who did go, enjoyed a nice coffee and homemade cake on arrival, then a pleasant walk around the estate there. Some of the snowdrops weren't out, due to the cold damp winter, which was a shame.



The next coffee morning will be hosted by Brita, at the usual venue on: Monday 3rd March, as I will be away on holiday. She will also be discussing the next trip in March, which is to Compton Acres near Poole, which is obviously a bit further afield.

We still have one space free in our group, as a member has recently left, due to health reasons, if anyone would like to join us, you would be most welcome.



# Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

## 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

29th March – Skittles at the Swan, Stalbridge, 7pm. £10 to include a hot supper.  
(please note the change of date)

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](mailto:jood58@gmail.com)**

## Your Committee

Chair Vice Chair	Susan Kidd Gill Westall	skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com
Secretary	Helen Lennon	hlennon35@yahoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Gill Westall	bvmembership@outlook.com 01963 204318
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Speaker Secretary (temporary)	Hilary Smith	ron_hilary@tiscali.co.uk
Committee Member	Lin Allison	allisonlinda021@gmail.com
Committee Member	VACANT	

## Group contacts

Walking Group, Tuesday	Richard Kidd	richardakidd64@gmail.com
Walking Group, Wednesday		
Reading Groups	vacant	
Bridge	Howard Warden	Warden444@btinternet.com
Garden Visits	Jan Nast	Janice.nast@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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