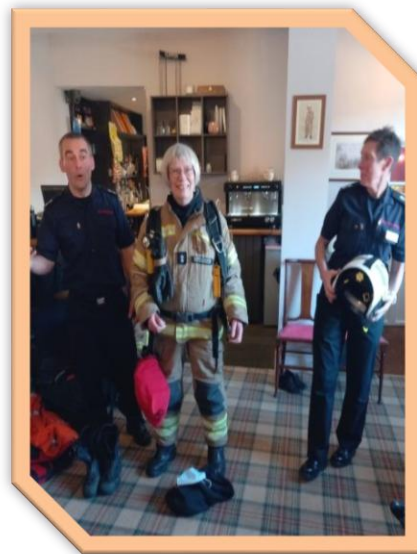


Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>

**HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

Doors open 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm

**Matthew Scott**  
**BEING A FIREMAN**



**How cumbersome is the bright yellow uniform that firemen wear? Matthew may let you try one on to find out. Have you ever wondered how many women are in the fire service or how to get a cat down from a tree? During the Q&A session Matthew is up for answering all question put to him.**

## ANECDOTES

### PUTTING YOUR FOOT IN IT!

We have all done it at some time. A chance or thoughtless remark, then the embarrassment, and trying to dig yourself out of a hole.

My son had a new girlfriend, and was singing her praises. I asked what she did. He said, oh she is an actress (she would go as an extra in the background). Anyway, without thinking, I said, oh, so she hasn't got a real job then! My son was very put out!

Another member of the family who was in her 20's, appeared one day to visit. I said to her father, "who is the little boy with her?" He glared and said, "her boyfriend!" So, I had to extricate myself by saying, "oh, he looks so young, but then I haven't got my glasses on!"

And finally, when doing an amateur rehearsal for a play, we were all given clothes to wear, supposedly 1920s fashion (it was *The Boyfriend*). I looked at one of the other ladies who were also in the play, and said, "oh, I don't like yours, couldn't they find you something better than that?" Her answer – "This is my own dress. I haven't changed yet!" Oh dear, that taught me to be much more careful. Or at least, it should have!

*Natalie Thompson*



### LOST AND FOUND

Jason had a hamster when he was 8 or 9  
He loved his pet so dearly and everything was fine.  
One day I looked inside the cage and to my horror saw  
That Horace the hamster was in the cage no more.

I searched and searched to no avail  
And didn't tell my son  
I went into a pet shop  
and bought another one.

I greeted him when home from school,  
Oh look, your hamsters back!  
His eyes have changed, said Jason,  
They were pink and now they're black.

He finally accepted  
that this one was his Horace  
Until the day we found his first,  
So we called the second Boris.

*Natalie Thompson*



## RACE DAY AT NEWTON ABBOT 2026

Dee McVey, Okehampton u3a, is now negotiating a deal with Newton Abbot Race Course to include:

- entrance to the Paddock enclosure
- access to a box (big room), overlooking the winning post, all afternoon
- Tea/coffee and canopies ... small pasties, mini quiche, chicken nougats, sausage on a stick, sandwiches etc.



It'll be on **May 6th** and she's hoping the cost will be no more than £40pp. The maximum number is 50 and there are already 27 places booked ... so, if you'd be interested in going, please contact Dee asap on [chair@okehampton-u3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@okehampton-u3a.org.uk)

Dee McVey  
Chair  
Okehampton u3a  
01837 658590  
[okehampton.u3asite.uk](http://okehampton.u3asite.uk)



### A message from Marian Luck, Council Representative

Hello fellow u3a members

One of our Council Reps, Susan Parker (formally the Trustee for the SW), will be standing down as she has served the maximum time allowed as Trustee and Council Rep.

Therefore, we are asking for people to volunteer to take her place, so our region has two representatives. We are a large geographical region and trying to cover all of it with one person would greatly diminish the service that I could provide to u3as across the region on my own.

I am asking members to think about whether you could come forward to engage with u3as and networks in the region, representatives from other Regions/Nations and the Trust.

If you would like more information you can contact me at [marian.luck@u3a.org.uk](mailto:marian.luck@u3a.org.uk) or phone me on 07480 643775 or Susan on [susan.parker@u3a.org.uk](mailto:susan.parker@u3a.org.uk), we would be very happy to answer any questions.

Although nothing has been published yet, it seems likely that the election process will begin in January 2026 so this is the time for people to come forward if you think you can fulfil this role. **Members do not have to be committee members** to come forward, the role is open to any member who wishes to put themselves forward..

This is an important role for u3as as the Council is the conduit between u3as and the Board and will be involved in helping to decide the way forward for the u3a movement.

Thank you in advance, Marian.



## GARDEN VISITS



The group has recently had a couple of good trips, one of which was organised by Assistant Group Leader, Brita, whilst I was on holiday. It was to a lovely RHS garden near Wimborne, called Knoll Gardens, which was enjoyed by ten members (including lunch and tea).

Our next trip at the end of October, was to the Hauser & Worth gardens (and exhibition), near Bruton. We are then going down the road to Kimbers Farm Shop & Cafe, for a browse in the shop, coffee, then lunch (we are expected 17 to lunch there, so a large group).

In November, we have our usual monthly coffee morning on Monday 3rd, 11.00 at William's Café in Dikes supermarket, we are then going on a trip to Wilton Garden Centre, to see the Christmas display (and shopping), followed by lunch at the nice cafe there.

We have also lost a couple of members recently, so we have two new members from the 'waitlist' and are now back to our full capacity of 30.

*Janice Nast*



## WALKING GROUPS

### Wardour Castles Walk – September

The Wednesday walkers set out on the third Wednesday from the car park at Old Wardour Castle on a very grey day which was supposed to be dry and brighten up. Neither were correct as it was grey throughout and there was either light or heavy drizzle. The hardy group of nine walkers (including one walker from the Tuesday group doing their recce) set out and walked along past the end of the lake and along the edge of the woods until we reached a point where we were able to look across and see the New Wardour Castle which is now smart looking apartments. This is a lovely walk with beautiful view in good weather. We continued up a hill and along through a copse until just before Donhead St Andrew, when we turned right and downhill, through a farm, then along until we reached a small road with a broken stile which we should have used. However, that would not have been safe, so we walked along the road until we found a gate leading into the field and continued up the hill to the New Castle. I always admire their beautifully kept grounds and wish someone would cut my grass as regularly as theirs is cut. Along, across fields, past the blacksmith's and back to our start point. We drove to The Half Moon in Shaftesbury where we had lunch.

This picture was taken when we got back to the card with Old Wardour Castle in the background.



Hilary

The Tuesday group did the same walk on the last Tuesday in September in rather different weather – lovely sunshine. They came to the broken stile and found that it had been repaired, which is excellent. The picture below shows some of the Tuesday group



having climbed the stile and walking up to the New Castle. Having returned to the car park, they ate at the Benett Arms in Semley which was deemed to be good. Compare the weather!



## LUNCH GROUP

We gained six new members for the group at the Open Day in September, bringing the total in the group up to 20. Thirteen members of the Lunch Group, including two of the new members, had a very enjoyable meal at The Farmyard Kitchen at Blackmarsh Farm in Sherborne at the beginning of October. The menu was rather restricted but everyone found something acceptable. However the building, which is a converted barn, was very echoey due to the high ceilings and stone walls and it became quite noisy when we were all talking, which made it rather difficult to hear other people. We also had the opportunity to visit Hunt's new Food Hall which is now open next door.

Dennis has offered to book our next meal. He is arranging for us to go again to the White Lion at Bourton on Thursday 6th November where we have had enjoyable meals in the past and we look forward to seeing several members there.

If you would like any information about the group do contact Gill Westall – 07976 806726 or [gillwestall@hotmail.com](mailto:gillwestall@hotmail.com).



### Get more out of the u3a on line

Go on the website to find out - [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk)

First register (don't forget to save name and password)

Then just log in and go to - **Get Involved**

1. **Click** [u3a Friends](#) and give your email address.

Then every month an email with updates will come with  
what's on – online all for free.

2 **Choose** from the wealth of subject networks, geology, crafts and chess to name a few.

3. **Book** free talks

There is something for everyone

# Future events

**(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

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

## 2026

**January 6th**

David Bailey  
Wildlife Wanderings

**March 3rd**

AGM  
and  
Kevin Patience  
Operation Mincemeat and  
the Man Who Never Was

**May 5th**

Linda Farrand  
World Cheese Awards

**July 7th**

**James Taylor**  
Careless Talk Costs Lives

**September 8th**

Open Afternoon

**November 3th**

Charlotte Carty  
In my Grandfather's Footsteps

## Your Committee 2025-6

Chair Vice Chair	Susan Kidd Martin White	skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com Martinwhite898@gmail.com
Secretary	Martin White	Martinwhite898@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Gill Westall Alison Shilling	Bvmembershipu3a@outlook.com
Treasurer	Judy Penfold	Bvu3atreasurer.gmail.com
Publicity	Susan Kidd	Skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com 01963 362107
Creative Director	Judy Penfold	Jood58@gmail.com
Speaker Secretary (temporary)	Hilary Smith	Hilarysmith967@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Barry Russell	Barry.russell42@tiscali.co.uk
Committee Member	vacant	

## Group contacts

Walking Group, Tuesday	Richard Kidd	richardakidd64@gmail.com
Walking Group, Wednesday		
Friday Morning Reading Group	Lydia Avery	Lydia.1cranbrookcottage@gmail.com
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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