

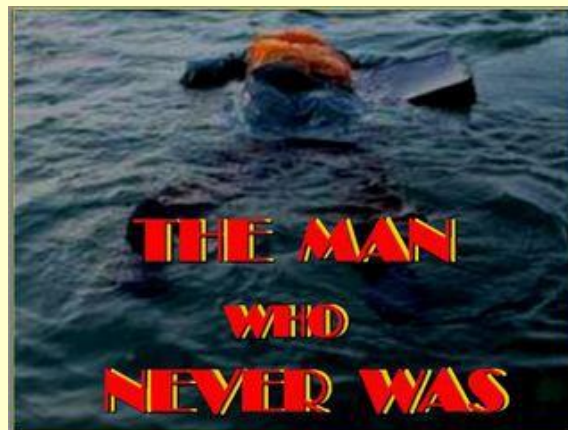
HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

**March 3rd**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**3.00pm**

Followed by

**Kevin Patience**

Operation Mincemeat



Please would all members kindly attend the AGM, or send in their apologies to the membership secretary.

Those who have not yet renewed their membership will not be entitled to vote.



## GARDEN VISITS GROUP

We started 2026 off with a really enjoyable Annual Lunch in mid-January, at the lovely local Grange Hotel near Sherborne, where 16 members attended. This was instead of our usual monthly coffee morning.

Our first coffee morning was earlier this month, where 20 members attended, which was almost a record!

The next trip (on Valentine's Day!) is to see the snowdrop display at Kingston Lacy NT. Around 12 of our group are due to go on this trip, so we hope the weather will be dry, but also that the plants haven't been too badly affected by this incessant rain!

Our next monthly coffee morning will be on Monday 2nd March, at the usual place and time, so we hope for another good turnout 😊

*Jan Nast*



## WALKING GROUPS



The December walk was planned to be from Henstridge, setting out over fields through Toomer Farm and along to the ridge towards Purse Caundle, returning to Henstridge via Park Wall / Landshire Lane. The weather for the recce was dry in the morning when the recce was done, and it started to rain that afternoon.

For December, because the last Tuesday is between Christmas and New Year, the Wednesday and Tuesday groups normally walk together on the third Wednesday of December.

However, the rain which started that afternoon doesn't seem to have stopped, resulting in the cancellation of both the December and January walks. The groups still met as planned on 17th December to partake of the wonderful buffet prepared by the Bird and enjoy mince pies and Stollen made by Hilary and Richard, respectively.

A decision was made that the February walk should be on roads with no paths or fields, both for our safety and because it would be extremely unpleasant walking in the very wet fields. Because of the weather, the Wednesday walk had to be cancelled as no recce could be done. The good news is that a recce has been conducted and the walk from Shaftesbury will go ahead, subject to weather, on 24th February and lunch afterwards will be at The Bird in Hand. The Wednesday group was invited to join the Tuesday group for this walk.

*Hilary Smith*



## CRAFT GROUP



*Painted by Ron Smith; Watercolour based on an original by John Lidzey*

We had our first art/craft morning in January, in which we concentrated on watercolour techniques. Learning about falling shadows, we painted a picture of trees in the snow. We also did "carrot people", which is a simple way of putting people into the landscape. The time went quickly, and everyone had a finished picture at the end. We also discussed various weights of watercolour paper and types of paint. Unfortunately, the next session isn't until March 11th, when we will do wet-in-wet, and a landscape of hills, sea and shore. Again, with a carrot person!

*Natalie Thompson*



## GAMES GROUP



*AI generated image*

We had our first games group in January. It was a good turnout of ten people despite the flooding that day.

One group was interested in playing scrabble and the rest of us were up for a new challenge.

We had a go at a game called Sequence, which was a cross between Connect 4 and chess but with over two players. Six of us paired up for the challenge, a very simple game but you needed

to really focus on the other players to stop them making a line across the board, while trying to make your own line discreetly! Quite a strategic game and quick to learn.

*Sue Cawaladr*



## LUNCH GROUP



We have had two very enjoyable lunches so far this year. In January we went to The Ship Inn in West Stour and, as usual, enjoyed the food there. In February we went to Meaders, the new restaurant in the centre of Stalbridge, and were pleased to welcome a new member to the group. Although the service was rather slow, we enjoyed the food when we received it. The meal was enlivened towards the end by the fire alarm going off, but this did not persuade any of the diners to leave the building! Many thanks to Ann and Lynn for organising these meals.

In March we are going to The Old Inn in Holton, which Martyn is organising for us. We have one or two places available if anyone would like to join the group. Do contact me if you are interested.

*Gill Westall*

*Telephone: 07976 806726*



## Story Time

With stories and anecdotes from members. The theme this month is Travel.

Please let us know if you enjoy this

### MY RARE TALENT part 1

I have this rare talent. I rarely explain it to people because then they go to great lengths to help me. But actually, I am quite happy with this talent. It has taken me on some wonderful adventures, and I have had a lot of laughs with people.

It is this: although I always think I know where I am going, it can often go wrong. Nowadays I use a Sat-Nav device, which I argue with constantly. For me, getting lost is the norm!

People kindly explain in great detail where something is, and I nod wisely. If they say the fish and chip shop, in my mind I am seeing a different one. If they say, where the road bends, oh dear, that's harder. I start out on these journeys of exploration knowing that ultimately I will get to my destination but may encounter surprises on the way!

The other evening, very dark and rainy, I didn't want to chance the potholes up the road to the farm, so decided I could go up Rosemary Street (what a lovely name) and make my way back through Furlong Lane. To be fair, it was pitch-black. I couldn't quite remember which way to turn, so I turned right at some point, and was driving down this street when my car suddenly said. – 'Attention, you're driving down a no-entry street!' Well, I knew my sat nav was always butting in, but didn't realise my car did that too! What next? Maybe 'Attention' the Co-op isn't that way, or perhaps, why don't you turn the Sat-Nav on? Or other useful advice?

I used to go for walks with a friend, using a book of pub walks. You park in the pub car park and then do a circular walk. One time I was in charge of the compass and the book. We began alright, and the book would say, go through the stile at the end of the field, or turn left at the tall tree on the right. Once it even said, pass the blue painted fence. Looking closely at the white fence, we finally saw chips of blue paint underneath!

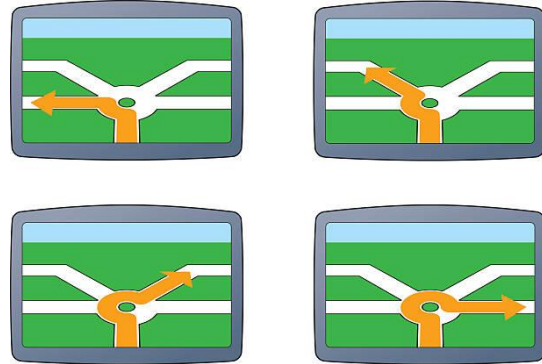


We walked and walked, much further than the six miles, still following the instructions. Finally, in desperation, we saw a man loading a Landrover. When we told him we were headed for Chilham, he looked astonished and said it was miles in the other direction. I will take you, he said firmly, if you can get in the back of the Landrover. We thought about not accepting lifts from strangers, but we were exhausted, and he looked kind. We climbed in, among bags of corn and hay, and I put my hand down on a dead pheasant. He took us all the way to the centre of the village. I expect he thought, these two old dears will never get back otherwise! It was quite an

adventure, but we got a wonderful lunch there. I then realised I had been using the compass upside down...

## MY RARE TALENT part 2

When I lived in Spain, i was always exploring, and when a friend came to stay, we went to Novelda and had a *menu del dia*. All that went swimmingly, but unfortunately I then took a wrong turn on the way back. Somehow, I had got on the opposite side of a mountain range. We drove and drove; there were no roads that allowed us to cross over, though I knew that's where I should be! This went on for hours, but of course, everything ends eventually. I took a road on the left and left the mountain range behind. Still lost, but at least heading back to where I lived. My friend was very encouraging, as she was used to my ways and had faith in me! We drove along this wide road, suggesting it must be heading somewhere well-known. Pulling in and stopping was our reaction to the surprising sight of larger gates across the road. We finally realised that it was a cemetery. Well, I said, let's hope we find someone alive in there to tell us where we are. We locked up the car and walked through the gates. It was silent. Luckily, we spotted two employees and asked them how to get back to Torrevieja. They were surprised to see us, but very helpful, and we took their advice and finally got home.



We both agreed that we had enjoyed a fun adventure, and would see where our next trip would take us. But we never ended up in a cemetery again!

*Natalie Thompson*



*NoName\_13 via Pixabay*

# Future events

(CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

**May 5th**

Linda Farrand  
World Cheese Awards

**July 7th**

**James Taylor**  
Careless Talk Costs Lives

**September 8th**

Open Afternoon

**November 3rd**

Charlotte Carty  
In my Grandfather's Footsteps



## Your Committee

Chair Vice Chair	Susan Kidd Martin White	skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com Martinwhite898@gmail.com
Secretary	Martin White	Martinwhite898@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Alison Shilling	Bvmembershipu3a@gmail.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		
Reading Groups	Lydia Avery	lydia.1cranbrookcottage@gmail.com
Lunch Group	Gill Westall	Gillwestall@hotmail.com
Bridge	Howard Warden	Warden444@btinternet.com
Garden Visits	Jan Nast	Janice.nast@gmail.com
Arst & Crafts	Natalie Thompson	thompsonjn@hotmail.com
Games	Sue Cadwaladr	scaddiewag17@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.

The contents of this newsletter are provided by the members for the members and is produced at no cost to the members.