

Walking Group Christmas Lunch (Thu 14th December 2023)



The Totton South u3a Walking Group went to the "Happy Cheese" in Ashurst for our Christmas lunch in 2023. Everyone had a good meal and enjoyable conversation. Thank you to David M. for organising the occasion.

Okehampton Holiday (Mon 6th to Fri 10th November 2023)



A group of 34 members went to the Manor House resort near Okehampton in Devon which is a craft and sports venue with 187 bedrooms on the foothills of Dartmoor National Park. Some members had previously visited for several years whilst others were making their first visit.

The very reasonable price of accommodation includes tuition, coaching and full board. The food quality was excellent as in previous years on a buffet basis for a full breakfast. 3 course lunch and 3 course dinner.

The holiday was very enjoyable with members taking part in a range of activities and generally socialising in the lounge areas and many playing games in the evening. Bookings are being made for November 2024.

Walking Group - Holiday to the Cotswolds (Sun 8th to Wed 11th October 2023)

Sun 8th – A group of 20 members of Totton South U3a met once again at the Royal George Hotel in Birdlip, near Cheltenham, for a three night stay. All the staff were friendly and helpful, especially Elaine, who was the main contact. Having made their own travel arrangements, with one member taking his caravan to a local campsite, we all met in the bar to have a light lunch. Most of the group then had a pleasant walk through the woods by the hotel, across fields to the Birdlip Viewpoint. This gave wonderful views of Gloucester and surrounding hills. Returning to the Hotel, we settled into our rooms before meeting in the bar for a pre-dinner drink, and enjoying tasty roast dinners! Afterwards, we enjoyed quizzes, Canasta, Rummikub and various other games, which also set the scene for the following evenings – some highly competitive!

Mon 9th – After breakfast, most of the group set out for Bourton-on-the-Water for our walk. Although 'mystery tours' can be exciting, our drive proved only to be frustrating! Because of roadworks, a 'diversion' sign took us full circle and led us on a 'wild goose' chase before arriving at our destination – we were 'not amused'!! Fortunately, the rest of the day we had a lovely walk along the River Windrush, across fields, through woods (which gave welcome shade from an unusually hot sunny October day) before stopping for refreshments at The Slaughters Country Inn in Lower Slaughter. We returned to Bourton, where we rejoined two members of the group for drinks and a walk around the village. Two further members had a pleasant day exploring the area. In the evening, at dinner, we enjoyed discussing the various activities of the day.

Tue 10th – Some of the Group met at Minchinhampton for a circular walk around the Common. Although there was a fairly thick mist at the start of the walk, it gradually cleared, giving us splendid views over the valleys. Continuing to walk across the Common, and avoiding the golf course, we passed 'friendly' Highland cattle roaming the area. We returned to the car park and drove to The Bear at Rodborough for drinks and snacks before returning to the Hotel. Other members of the group, who wished not to participate in the walk, enjoyed a trip to Gloucester and visiting picturesque Cotswolds towns and villages.

After our meal, a presentation was made to Dave and Zena to thank them for all the hard work and effort made for organising another successful break – and again, arranging for such lovely weather!

Wed 11th – We all left independently after our final breakfast together.



Totton South u3a Coffee Mornings (held twice a month)



Coffee Mornings are held on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month – 10am to noon at Hanger Farm Arts Centre, Aikman Lane, Totton SO40 8FT. Why not come along and join us?

2into1 Group – Visit to Foxlease, Lyndhurst (Wed 27th September 2023)



Some of the 2into1 group enjoying a cream tea after a tour of Foxlease in Lyndhurst.

2into1 Group – Boat Trip on the River Test (Sun 27th August 2023)



Eleven members of the TSu3a 2into1 Group had a trip on the "Alison MacGregor" boat up the River Test to look at four liners in Southampton Docks and then into the River Itchen and including Ocean Village. At one point, Jenny (one of our 2into1 members) took the helm!



It was a very enjoyable two hour trip and the sun shone for us.

Another group of 2into1 members will be taking the same trip in September.

Annual Afternoon Tea at Colbury Memorial Hall (Fri 18th August 2023)

Despite the inclement weather forecast, a very successful Afternoon Tea was held – inside the Hall – for 51 members of Totton South u3a.



Walking Group – Day Trip to the Isle of Wight (Tue 15th August 2023)

A group of nineteen of us from the Walking Group (including non-walkers) gathered at Lymington to catch the 10 a.m. ferry for a day exploring the Isle of Wight around the Yarmouth area. How lucky we were, after days of heavy rain to be blessed with a beautiful warm sunny day (no wet-weather gear needed)!

Dave, who organised the trip, had given the group several options. Whilst two of the group explored on their own, the majority chose to walk the Old Railway track along the River Yar where, as it was high tide, was proving popular with young sailors. The attractive tree-lined bridleway continued until crossing the road at the Causeway we headed to the End of the Line Café in Freshwater. Refreshments are always an essential part of our walks, so we took our seats on the terrace to have our drinks – and edibles!

Several of the group made use of the local buses to explore other areas of the Island nearby, such as Alum Bay, The Needles, Colwell Bay and a local Museum.

The rest of us returned to the causeway over the estuary to the other side of the river and made our way through woodland and along fields, some having been harvested and baled by the

farmers, and giving lovely views over the surrounding Downs.

Returning to Yarmouth, most of us met at The Bugle Coaching Inn, where we enjoyed leisurely drinks and meals before rejoining the ferry for our homeward journey.

Again, everyone thanked Dave for all his hard work in planning such a thoroughly enjoyable day. Well done!



Trip to Scotland, including the Royal Military Tattoo (Thu 10th to Tue 15th August 2023)



21 members of Totton South u3a and five members of Lyndhurst u3a embarked on the trip to Scotland. Neither group had met the other but it didn't take long before the whole group 'gelled'.



The journey up and back was comfortable with an affable coach driver and an overnight stay both ways plus three nights at the Rob Roy Hotel at Aberfoyle. We were looked after well and the food was good.

Some members chose to go to the Edinburgh Festival the following morning and others went for a tour and tea on the Royal Yacht Britannia and then we all got together again at the Royal Military Tattoo which was spectacular. The trip also included a cruise on Loch Katrine in the Trossachs and a ride on the Falkirk Wheel.

Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the trip and asked when the next holiday would be!

Trip to Maastricht, Netherlands to attend an André Rieu Concert (Fri 7th to Mon 10th July 2023)



A weekend was arranged for six members of Totton South u3a to go to Maastricht to see André Rieu and his Johann Strauss orchestra – travelling by coach with Angela Coaches.

We travelled to Dover for our crossing to Calais – a few delays with customs and volume of traffic. Boarded the P and O ferry which took 1 hr 30 minutes, a good calm crossing. Our destination was Cologne for our three night stay at the hotel.

On Saturday, after a wonderful breakfast, we travelled to Maastricht, Netherlands in the coach, arriving there at lunchtime. After a bit of sightseeing and a splendid relaxing lunch we made our way to Vrijthof Square for the show. The show was brilliant – it lasted three hours, from 21.00 hrs until midnight, then back to our hotel.

Next day Sunday, was a day of leisure in the lovely city of Cologne. Weather was very hot – two members went on a cruise along the river while the others took in the magnificent carnival parade.

First thing Monday, back on the coach for our journey home. In Calais – again because of volume of traffic and delays at customs – we missed our allocated ferry at 15.00 hrs, but managed to catch the next one at 17.30 hrs. All arrived back in the Totton area around 22.00 hrs after a long but worthwhile journey.

Cheque presented to Oakhaven Hospice at our 2023 AGM (Fri 19th May 2023)

At our 2023 AGM, the chair of Totton South u3a presented a cheque for £635 to Jill, a representative from **Oakhaven Hospice**, our Charity of the Year 2022–2023.

.

.



2intol Group - Trip to the Verderers Court (Wed 26th April 2023)



The 2intol Group made a visit to the Verderers Court in Lyndhurst.

Walking Group - Holiday to Buckfastleigh (Sun 16th to Wed 19th April 2023)

A group of 12 members of Totton South u3a had an enjoyable break staying three nights at the Dartbridge Inn, Buckfastleigh. All the staff at the Inn were extremely helpful, especially Ryan, the Manager. The group all met at the Inn on Sunday 16th April, after making our own travel arrangements. We settled into our various rooms. We later met in the bar for pre-meal drinks before enjoying tasty roast dinners! Afterwards, an area near the bar had been reserved for us (arranged by Dave) where we could all get-together for drinks each evening and discuss our plans and activities each day. It also allowed everyone to join in friendly (competitive)! quizzes, learn Canasta, Rummikub and various other games!

Mon 17th - We all gathered for a hearty breakfast before setting out for the day. The Walking Group met at the Warren NT car park to start a 4 mile circular coastal walk along the cliffs overlooking Wembury Bay. The weather conditions were ideal – sunny, giving lovely views over the rocks below and a perfectly calm sea. The grassy slopes were covered with large patches of bright yellow Gorse and other colourful wildflowers. The path continued through woodland skirting the River Yealm estuary before reaching Noss Mayo where, of course, we had to have liquid refreshment on the terrace of the local pub! Continuing through the village we made our way – uphill(!) – past newborn lambs in the fields, to the car park.

Four members of the Group visited Saltram House NT and had an enjoyable time exploring. The Walkers had intended joining them but were delayed by 'Road Closed' signs on the narrow Devon lanes sadly scuppering these plans. Better luck another time. Two other members also enjoyed their day exploring other parts of the area including Buckfast Abbey. We all returned tired and ready for another tasty dinner.

Tue 18th - The Walking Group met at Loddiswell village to start a 5 ½ mile circular walk through the Devon countryside. This took us along a path by the clear, fast flowing River Avon where we paused several times on small sandy 'beaches' and allowing Peggy, our canine companion, to have a dip (though not the rest of us)! The flowers were beautiful, especially masses of Primroses and Wild Garlic. We then crossed over the river by an old bridge which used to carry the railway and followed the line by the other side of the riverbank. This took us to a garden centre where we stopped for another well-earned rest and coffee! We continued along minor roads, one of which was slightly flooded, various fields and several stiles.

As yesterday, we had another uphill climb(!) through a field of bright yellow Rapeseed and giving marvellous views of the surrounding countryside before reaching the car park in Loddiswell. Feeling rather weary we decided we would return to the hotel for a rest before getting together for a pre-dinner drink. Other members of the Group enjoyed visiting Teignmouth and other nearby towns and villages.

Wed 19th - We all left independently, after our final breakfast together. Many thanks again to Dave for organising another enjoyable break – including lovely weather!



Holiday to Littlecote House Hotel (Mon 20th to Fri 24th March 2023)

On Monday 20th March, 26 members of Totton South U3A arrived at Littlecote House in Hungerford for a short holiday.



We all enjoyed a few days of rest and relaxation although there was much to see within the grounds of the hotel, including the remains of a Roman villa with a spectacularly well- preserved



mosaic floor.

The Elizabethan house forming part of the hotel was also extremely interesting with some fascinating history – even a ghost story!



Visits out included walks along the towpath of the Kennet canal in Hungerford, a trip to Lacock village and Abbey, a visit to the Avebury Rings and a coach trip to Bourton-on-the-water and Burford in the Cotswolds.

We all enjoyed a varied and well-presented menu in the restaurant and the late afternoon quizzes and evening entertainments were also much appreciated by those of us who participated.

Skills Swap Day (Sat 11th February 2023)

Approximately 50 members attended, with twelve workshops on offer: Beading and Macrame, Calligraphy, Crochet, Embroidered Cards, Origami, Flower Arranging, Genealogy, Keeping Safe On The Web, Marquetry, Introduction to Yoga, Essential Oils, Ukelele.

Programme: 10am: Arrival-tea/coffee/biscuits; 10.30am: Morning workshops; 12.30pm: Lunch; 1.30pm: Afternoon workshops; 3.30pm: Refreshments-tea/coffee/cake; 4pm: End of day.

Comments received from members:

- "I really enjoyed the skills swap day yesterday. Thank you for all the time and energy you put into the Totton South U3A!"
- "It was a very enjoyable day; an opportunity to try out different skills; a chance to meet up with other like-minded people; a really lovely ploughman's lunch and plenty of tea, coffee and cakes. A super day, so a huge thank you to you and your team for organising it."
- "Well done on an obviously very successful day. You had worked so hard on all the organising and it certainly paid off. Everyone was certainly enjoying themselves."
- "Well done to you. We can only imagine the effort you put into it. It was a great success with such a great variety of skills on offer. 🌸🌺🌻"
- "Many thanks to all involved in organising the day! It was thoroughly enjoyable and I loved learning new skills!"

The outcome is that we have had a request for another Skills Day next year, but before that, we have been asked to arrange further learning opportunities for Calligraphy; Essential Oils; Floral Art; Crochet; Computer Awareness; Macrame; Marquetry and Ukulele.

Obviously a very successful outcome and fulfilling the overall ethos of the U3A Movement.



Reports of activities from previous years may be found in 'Our Website Archives' - Click LINKS at the top of the web page.

Page text last edited: 20/10/2024

