

Reports – "A Year in the Life of Totton South u3a"

As well as our Group Meetings, our Coffee and Quiz Mornings and our regular Monthly Meetings, Totton South u3a members were active in very many ways during the last year:

"Christmas Entertainment" (Fri 19th Dec, 2025)



A rapid change was made for our December monthly meeting. When we arrived at Colbury Memorial Hall, we discovered that the entry road was being dug up for road works!

Fortunately, we were able to move the meeting to Colbury Church Rooms instead, to enjoy the planned Christmas food and drink. 86 people attended, and were entertained by our fellow members with Christmas songs, poems and readings.

Walking Group Christmas Meal at "The Happy Cheese" – Walking Group (Thu 11th Dec, 2025)



Twenty-five members of the Walking Group held a Festive Lunch at the Happy Cheese, Ashurst where good food, conversation and laughter was enjoyed. A tombola was provided by two members of the group, which included prize contributions from other members of the group. In addition, the sum of £40.20 was raised, which will be donated to Oakhaven Hospice – this year's nominated charity. A presentation was also made to Dave and Zena for all their hard work throughout the year.

Circular Walk from Lakeside Country Park, Eastleigh – Walking Group (Thu 4th Dec, 2025)

Nine members of Totton South Walking Group took part in this enjoyable walk, which included a visit to the Stoneham War Shrine and Refreshments at the "Cricketers Arms", North Stoneham.



Garden Group's Christmas Tea & Quiz – Garden Group (Wed 3rd Dec, 2025)

"Nuremberg" – film about the WW2 War Crimes Trial – Cinema Group (Tue 2nd Dec, 2025)

Visit to Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas', Lymington – 2into1 Group (Thu 27th Nov, 2025)

"Reminders of WW2 in the New Forest" – Talk at our Nov Monthly Meeting (Fri 21st Nov, 2025)

We had an attendance of 106 people at our monthly meeting to hear this talk.

First Aid Course for Group Coordinators at Colbury Church Rooms (Thu 20th Nov, 2025)

New Forest Big Band at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Sun 16th Nov, 2025)

"The Choral" – War-time tale of a Yorkshire Choral Society – Cinema Group (Thu 13th Nov, 2025)

Visit to "Clarks Outlet Village" in Street – Discovery Group (Thu 13th Nov, 2025)

Circular Walk from Milkham – Walking Group (Thu 6th Nov, 2025)

Fourteen of us took part in a very pleasant walk. We were also joined by some others, for lunch at The High Corner Inn, Linwood

Visit to Otter Nursery, Lymington – Garden Group (Wed 5th Nov, 2025)

"Alice the Musical" – Fawley Royal British Legion – Theatre

Group(Sat 1st Nov, 2025)

National Theatre: "Mrs Warren's Profession" – Hanger Farm – Theatre Grp (Tue 28th Oct, 2025)

Birdwatching Walk at Eling – Bird Watching Group (Sat 25th Oct, 2025)

Guided Tour around the Royal Albert Hall, London – Discovery Group (Thu 23rd Oct, 2025).

Guided Talk & Tour around Old Southampton – 2into1 Group (Wed 22nd Oct, 2025)

"Quiz Afternoon & Tea" – SW Hampshire u3a Network event (Tue 21st Oct, 2025)

Several of our Totton South u3a members formed a team, to compete in this Quiz Afternoon.

"Great British Bake Off Musical" – Play at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Sun 19th Oct, 2025)

"The Body Through The Porthole" – Talk at our October Monthly Meeting (Fri 17th Oct, 2025)

We had an attendance of 103 people at our monthly meeting to hear this talk.

"The 39 Steps" – Play at Vernon Theatre, Lyndhurst – Theatre Group (Thu 16th Oct, 2025)

Cotswolds Walking Holiday – Walking Group (Sun 12th Oct, 2025 to Wed 15th Oct, 2025)

Fourteen members went on a "Getaway Break" Walking Holiday, staying in Birdlip, Gloucester.



Sun 12th – A group of 14 members of TSu3a returned again to the Royal George Hotel in Birdlip, near Gloucester, for a three-night stay. After settling into our rooms, most of us had a leisurely walk through the woods adjoining the hotel, onto open fields to the Birdlip Viewpoint. This gave wonderful views of Gloucester and surrounding hills despite some lingering mist. After returning to the hotel, we later met in the bar for a drink before enjoying our tasty roast dinners! Afterwards, several of the group enjoyed Canasta, Rummikub and Scrabble.

Mon 13th – After breakfast, most of the group drove to Bourton-on-the-Water for the start of our walk. Although the morning was rather damp and drizzly, we walked through the village along the River Windrush before taking paths across open fields and through the woods. Arriving in the attractive village of Lower Slaughter, we stopped for welcome refreshments at the Slaughters Country Inn! We returned to Bourton along a different track, where several of us stopped for tea, scones and cake – undoing all the good we achieved with our walk!! Two other members of the group had enjoyed their day exploring the villages around the area. Returning to the hotel, we again enjoyed our meals, followed by a quiz set by one of the group, with mixed results!

Tues 14th – While four of the group explored other parts of the towns and villages, most met at Minchinhampton, where we enjoyed a circular walk around the Common. Although it was rather misty in the 'valleys', it didn't affect the views of the glorious orange, gold and deep red autumn colours of the Beech, Oak, Silver Birch and the lovely bright red berries of Hawthorn bushes. After climbing a couple of stiles through the woods, we stopped for a short break on a convenient bench. Continuing across the Common, we passed a number of Highland cattle which are allowed to graze – in the same way that the ponies and cattle roam free in the Forest. Returning to the town, some stopped for a snack, while others drove to a nearby pub at Rodborough for drinks and snacks. We returned to the hotel for our final meal together and

once again thanked Dave, and Zena, for all their hard work in organising another splendid break.

Weds 15th – After a final breakfast together, some left to begin their journey home whilst a few went for a short walk on Leckhampton Hill before making their way back to Totton.

Visit to Carlo's Ice Cream Parlour in Wellow – Discovery Group (Mon 6th Oct, 2025)

Walk from Norley Wood to the Coast and back – Walking Group (Thu 2nd Oct, 2025)

Thirteen members had a very enjoyable walk from Norley Wood to the Coast and back. Afterwards, the group had lunch at Fairweather's Garden Centre in Beaulieu.

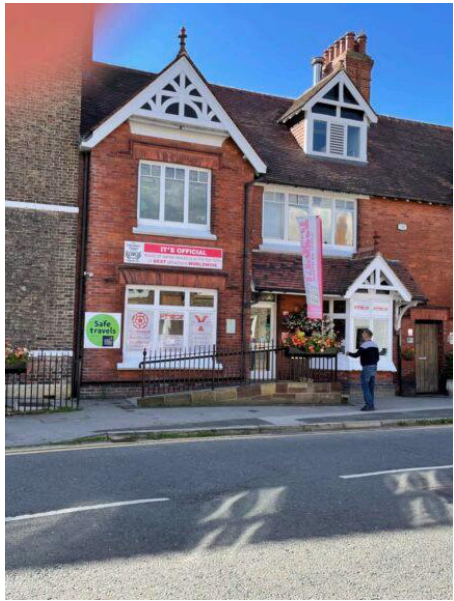
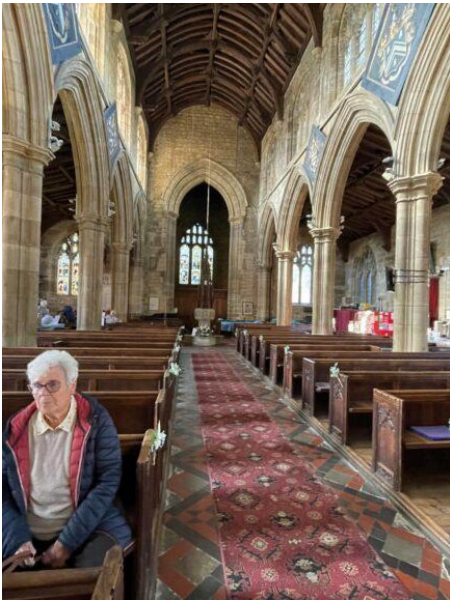


New Forest Garden Visit – Garden Group (Wed 1st Oct, 2025)

Harrogate & Yorkshire Dales – Totton South u3a Holiday (Mon 22nd to Fri 26th Sep, 2025)

42 of our members went for an enjoyable holiday in Yorkshire.







The coach pick-ups for our holiday to Yorkshire began in Lyndhurst at 8am, moving on to Rushington, then central Totton, and with 42 of us on board plus luggage we started our trip to Harrogate. We had two-hourly refreshment stops and arrived at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate in the late afternoon. We had time to relax before dinner and our first experience of the great food that we would receive during our 5 day stay.

Tuesday was our first trip out, and was a step back in time into the world of James Herriott in Thirsk, followed by a tour of the beautiful Dales scenery plus Nidderdale before our return to the hotel.

On Wednesday, we had a full day in York, with the freedom to see the sights we wanted to visit, which included York Railway Museum, the atmospheric Shambles, the Jorvik Museum and York Minster.

The following day was Thursday, and we visited Skipton and enjoyed a relaxing cruise along the Leeds/Liverpool canal followed by a trip in a reserved 100+ year old renovated railway carriage on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey railway.

Several evenings were spent doing quizzes, prepared by Clive & Sheila, The hotel staff were very accommodating in providing a room set out for us with chairs/tables.

On Friday, the morning of our last day most of us spent walking round the beautiful gardens in Harrogate before boarding our coach home,

It was a very varied holiday, the weather was good and there was so much to see and do and it was great to be amongst u3a friends.

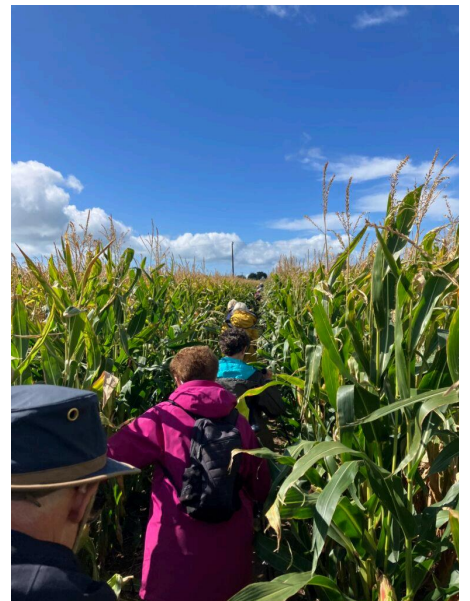
"Andrew Lloyd Webber – the man, his music and memories"

– Talk (Fri 19th Sep, 2025)

We had an attendance of 102 people at our monthly meeting to hear this talk.

Walk from Milford-on-Sea to Keyhaven and back – Walking Group (Thu 4th Sep, 2025)

Fourteen members of the Walking Group went on a memorable walk on a very blustery day – we started in a rain shower but ended in warm sunshine. We encountered waterlogged paths, waves crashing onto the shore and we used a public footpath through a field of sweetcorn, which stood much taller than any of us. We finished with a pub lunch at the Smugglers Inn, at the centre of Milford On Sea, where we thanked Dave for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable walk.





Visit to Hinton Ampner – Garden Group (Wed 3rd Sep, 2025)

Tour of the Events Venue at Minstead Lodge – 2into1 Group
(Wed 27th Aug, 2025)

Totton South August Picnic was held as our monthly general meeting (Fri 15th Aug, 2025)

59 members enjoyed this annual event, which was held this year at Copythorne Parish Hall.

Visit to Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park – Discovery Group (Thu 7th Aug, 2025)

Walking Day Trip to the Isle of Wight – Walking Group (Thu 7th Aug, 2025)

Fourteen members of the Walking Group boarded the Lymington Ferry for a trip to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight.

Whilst two of the group explored on their own, the majority had a pleasant, though slightly overcast and breezy, walk alongside the River Yar. The tide was in and on reaching the

Causeway bridge, we were amused to watch a Cormorant in the river struggling to eat a rather large eel! We continued to the "End of the Line" café at Freshwater, where we had no trouble enjoying our own tasty refreshments!

Two members decided to visit a local museum, while the rest of us made our way back on the opposite side of the river, through the woods and rather parched fields, to enjoy a pub lunch in Yarmouth before re-joining the ferry. Many thanks were extended to Dave for organising a splendid outing!

"The Rivals" – Outdoor Theatre at Furzey Gardens – Theatre Group (Wed 6th Aug, 2025)

"Jesus Christ Superstar" – Play at The Watermill, Newbury – Theatre Group (Sun 3rd Aug, 2025)

"Summer Classic" and Lunch – Book Groups 1, 2 & 3 (Fri 1st Aug, 2025)

Seventeen members from across all three book groups met to

discuss the classic book

"*The Secret Garden*" and to enjoy a "Bring-and-Share" lunch outdoors on lovely sunny day.

Visit to Tudor House Museum, Southampton – Discovery Group (Mon 28th Jul 2025)

"Friendship" – Comedy film at Harbour Lights Cinema – Cinema Group (Thu 24th Jul, 2025)

"30 Years with Hampshire Constabulary" – Talk at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 18th Jul, 2025)

We had an attendance of 93 people at the meeting.

Visit to Buckingham Palace, London – Discovery Group (Thu 17th Jul 2025)

The trip also included a view of the Tower Of London Poppies,

The Quarterly Group Coordinators' Meeting was held at Hanger Farm (Tue 15th Jul, 2025) Thirteen members were present, to discuss the progress of Totton South u3a's Interest Groups.

"Pride and Prejudice" – Play at Vernon Theatre – Theatre Group (Sat 12th Jul, 2025)

Hill Walking Holiday in Brecon Beacons – Walking Group (Sun 6th – Thu 10th Jul, 2025)

A small group of six met at The Castle Hotel, Brecon for a four night stay to walk the beautiful and dramatic countryside around the Brecon Beacons National Park. After settling into our rooms, we had a short walk along the Brecon Canal and River Usk before returning to the Hotel to enjoy our evening meal.

Monday 7th July

After enjoying hearty breakfasts, we took the road past the imposing mountain of Pen-y-Fan

to our destination at the southern part of the national park. Our walk was along the Elidir Trail, where several rivers form an area which is often referred to as 'Waterfall Country'. The path followed the fast flowing river tumbling through a deep gorge, under trees giving welcome shade, before ending at a beautiful waterfall plunging into a lovely rock pool. Retracing our steps, we made our way to a local pub for refreshments. Taking the road back to the hotel, we stopped at the Libanus Visitor Centre with a well-stocked shop and a welcome drink.

Tuesday 8th July

The days' walk around the Usk Reservoir took us to different countryside located among the higher hills and remote moorland of the Black Mountains. The track was through woodland plantations and giving splendid views over the Reservoir. Again, we had lovely sunny weather but were pleased to stop for a cold drink in a local pub on the return journey!

Wednesday 9th July

After driving through narrow country lanes, we arrived at the destination for our walk around Llangors Lake. After parking, we took a path across fields surrounding the lake, later stopping for a short break at a picnic site near the water. Continuing past a church onto narrow roads, we rejoined a path back towards the lake. The fields were covered with a mixture of beautiful wild flowers and the rare sight of a Cuckoo flying overhead. As usual, we were glad to stop at the local pub for a snack and drink. We returned to the hotel for our last evening meal of the holiday, thanking Dave, and Zena, for the hard work in organising an enjoyable break.

Thursday 10th July

After breakfast, we all left for our journey home.

"Northanger Abbey" – Play at Maskers Studio, Shirley – Theatre Group (Wed 9th Jul, 2025)

A Bird Watching Walk at Bartley Park, Totton – Bird Watching Group (Sun 6th Jul, 2025)

New Forest Walk from Hatchet Pond – Walking Group (Thu 3rd Jul, 2025)

Fourteen members enjoyed this walk, which ended with lunch at Fairweather's café.

Visit to Furzey Gardens – Garden Group (Wed 2nd Jul, 2025)

"Look Into My Eyes" – Talk about Hypnosis at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 20th Jun, 2025)

We had an attendance of 85 people at the meeting.

Horse-Drawn Barge Trip on Kennett and Avon Canal – Discovery Group (Thu 12th Jun, 2025)

"Much Ado About Nothing" – open-air play, Furzey Gardens – Theatre Group (Sat 7th Jun, 2025)

A First Aid Course for Group Coordinators was held at Colbury Church (Thu 5th Jun, 2025)

New Forest Walk, finishing at "The Drift" pub – Walking Group (Thu 5th Jun, 2025)

Despite inclement weather, eight members enjoyed this walk, which ended with a pub lunch.

"The Salt Path" – Film of a husband & wife's coastal trek – Cinema Group (Wed 4th Jun, 2025)

Visit to Mottisfont Rose Garden – Garden Group (Wed 4th Jun, 2025)

"The Pirates of Penzance" – Comic Opera at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Mon 2nd Jun, 2025)

New Forest "Pedall" organisation – 2into1 Group (Wed 28th May, 2025)

Visit to a group who aim to make the New Forest accessible to all, via adapted bicycles.

A Bird Watching Walk was held at Testwood Lakes – Bird Watching Group (Fri 23rd May, 2025)

The group saw 37 different species, including Reed Warbler, Greater Whitethroat and Red Kite.

Meeting to Welcome New Members (Thu 22nd May, 2025)

A meeting was held to welcome new and 'nearly new' members to Totton South u3a.

Web Page Update Workshop for Group Coordinators (Wed 21st May, 2025)

Ten Group Coordinators attended an introduction/refresher session on the use of SiteWorks.

AGM and Talk on "Hollywood Musicals" – Talk at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 16th May, 2025)

We had an attendance of 88 people at the meeting.

Members elected our Executive Committee (our Charity Trustees) for the coming year, and chose our Charity of the Year for 2025–2026 – *Oakhaven Hospice*. Following the

Annual General Meeting, a £585 cheque was presented to our Charity of the Year for 2024-2025 – *Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance*.

Visit to Swanwick Brickworks Museum – Discovery Group
(Thu 8th May, 2025)

This was a very interesting trip for six members.

Visit to Exbury Gardens – Garden Group (Wed 7th May, 2025).

"Blue Road" – the story of Irish author Edna O'Brien – Cinema Group (Thu 1st May, 2025)

New Forest Walk from the Happy Cheese, Ashurst – Walking Group (Thu 1st May, 2025)

Eighteen members enjoyed a lovely walk in glorious weather, concluding with a pub lunch.

Visit to Furzey Gardens – Garden Group (Sat 26th Apr, 2025)

"The Science of Happiness" – Talk at our Monthly Meeting
(Fri 25th Apr, 2025)

We had an attendance of 106 people at the meeting, for this talk by a Positive Psychologist.

"Sheila's Island" – Comedy play at The Vernon Theatre – Theatre Group (Thu 24th Apr, 2025)

The Quarterly Group Coordinators' Meeting was held at Hanger Farm (Tue 15th Apr, 2025) Eighteen members were present, to discuss the progress of Totton South u3a's Interest Groups.

"Piaf" (Edith Piaf) – Play at The Watermill, nr Newbury – Theatre Group (Sat 12th Apr, 2025)

A Visit to the "Pho Vietnam" Restaurant, Portswood – Discovery Group (Mon 7th Apr, 2025)

A Circular Walk from King Arthur's Statue, Winchester – Walking Group (Thu 3rd Apr, 2025)

Twelve members enjoyed a lovely riverside walk in glorious weather, with a refreshment stop for lunch at the Cadence Handlebar Café.

"Per Piacere Orchestra" – Concert at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Sun 30th Mar, 2025)

"Any Dream Will Do" – Play at Trinity Church, Totton – Theatre Group (Sat 29th Mar, 2025)

Second Digital Skills Course (Wed 5th Feb, 2025 to Wed 26th Mar, 2025)

This second Digital Skills Course ran for eight weeks during Feb–Mar 2025, and was once again led by the Mind Solent charity. Twelve members of Totton South u3a participated as course attendees. The course again covered Internet Searching, Email, Money, Entertainment and Social Media – with plenty of time for Questions and Answers. The generosity of the course attendees once again resulted in a 'Thank You' donation being made to the Mind Solent charity

Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Whitchurch – Trip by Discovery Group (Sat 22nd Mar, 2025)

10 Members went to this event and really enjoyed the day.

"Do You Know Who I Am?" (*Celebrities*) – Talk at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 21st Mar, 2025)

We had an attendance of 105 people at the meeting.

"Far From The Madding Crowd" – Play at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Thu 20th Mar, 2025)

Bird Watching Walk from Eling Toll Bridge – Bird Watching Group (Sun 9th Mar, 2025)

Walk between Wilverley Plain & Holmsley Tea Rooms – Walking Group (Thu 6th Mar, 2025)

"The Battle of Netley Marsh" – Film at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Wed 5th Mar, 2025)

Furzey Gardens – Visit by Garden Group (Wed 5th Mar, 2025)

"The 39 Steps" – Play at Salisbury Playhouse – Theatre Group (Sat 1st Mar, 2025)

Solent Spitfire Museum, Southampton – Visit by Discovery Group (Fri 28th Feb, 2025)

Seven members went to the Solent Spitfire Museum and all had a good day

"Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy" – Cinema Group (Tue 25th Feb, 2025)

Band of HM Royal Marines Collingwood Romsey Abbey – Theatre Group (Sat 22nd Feb, 2025)

"Skills Swap Day 2025" – (Sat 22nd Feb, 2025) – Fifty of our

members took part in eleven different workshops: Making Exclusive Jewellery; Essential Oils; Calligraphy; Flower Arranging; Reflexology; Water Colours with watercolour pencils; Writing Your Life Story; Playing Rummicub; Painting Pebbles; Genealogy; The Future for Mobile Phones.

Here are some photographs of the day:

"Questionable History of the TV Quiz Show" – Talk at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 21st Feb, 2025)

We had an attendance of 118 people at the meeting.

Tango Calor – Concert at Lyndhurst Community Centre – Theatre Group (Sun 9th Feb, 2025)

Walk from Beaulieu to Buckler's Hard – Walking Group (Thu 6th Feb, 2025)

Sir Harold Hillier Garden – Visit by Garden Group to see the Snowdrops (Wed 5th Feb 2025)

Romsey Male Voice Choir– Concert at Hanger Farm – Theatre Group (Sun 2nd Feb, 2025)

"A Complete Unknown" (The Bob Dylan Story) – Cinema Group (Wed 22th Jan, 2025)

The Quarterly Group Coordinators' Meeting was held at Hanger Farm (Tue 21st Jan, 2025) with nineteen attendees present, to discuss the progress of Totton South u3a's Interest Groups.

"Snow White" – Pantomime at the Plaza Theatre, Romsey – Theatre Group (Sun 19th Jan, 2025)

"The Story of Charles Dickens" – Talk at our Monthly Meeting (Fri 17th Jan, 2025)

We had an attendance of 105 people at the meeting.

New Year Lunch (Wed 15th Jan, 2025)

A New Year Lunch for Totton South u3a was attended by 76 members and was held at Wellow Golf Club, West Wellow, Romsey.

- [Totton South Reports from 2024](#)
- [Totton South Reports from 2023](#)

Webpage last updated:

19th December 2025

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