

INSIDE

HONITON u3a

August 2026

Issue no.4



NEWS • VIEWS • EVENTS
PEOPLE and PLACES



Hello all,

*Welcome to the summer edition of **Inside Honiton u3a**.
In the excessive heat we've been experiencing I hope all
u3a members are finding ways to keep cool and stay safe.*

*We have an action packed issue for you taking us on
the u3a trip to Chester, exploring life as a child on Eel Pie
Island in London and discovering an unexpected Australian
wine connection with Devon.*

*We also want to send Congratulations to Val Royal, a
Honiton u3a member who has recently received an award
in the King's Honours List ...read about Val's remarkable
achievement inside.*

Enjoy the rest of the summer and stepping Inside Honiton u3a!

Honor Head

Editor

Cover photo: Sudeley Castle taken by Roy Buckley on the u3a trip to Chester.

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GOING PLACES

In April a group from Honiton set off for a trip to the waterways of Cheshire and North Wales, the first u3a holiday in quite a while. Gill Thomas tells us all about it...

First stop, Tewkesbury and a visit to the Abbey. Tewkesbury Abbey is the second largest parish church in England. It was saved from total destruction during the dissolution of the monasteries by the townspeople who bought it for £453, the value of the bells and lead on the roof. When we arrived banners were being erected on the pillars as part of the town's commemoration of the Battle of Tewkesbury, a decisive moment in the Wars of the Roses. A quick walk down a narrow lane to look at the water meadows alongside the River Avon and the Abbey Mill then it was onward to the Holiday Inn in Chester.

The next morning we had a relaxing boat trip on the River Dee followed by free time in the city. Chester is delightful with its distinctive black and white timber-framed buildings. Unique to the city are The Rows (pictured right); these are elevated walkways level with the first floor dating back to the 13th century, and are lined with shops and cafes. In the afternoon we went to Liverpool University's Ness Botanic Gardens. It was a memorable day made extra special by brilliant blue skies and warm sunshine.



We had time to wander around Llangollen (pictured left) and have lunch before a trip on the canal. A coach took us to the setting-off point and very soon we were all aboard the narrow boat on the Llangollen Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The highlight was crossing the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, which at 125 feet is the highest in Britain. Four miles later we arrived back in Llangollen where the coach was waiting.

Our final day we spent at Tatton Park. Now owned by the National Trust, the 18th century mansion was home to the Egerton family who, of course, went on the Grand Tour, which is reflected in the collections inside the house. There are two very fine paintings of the Grand Canal in Venice by Canaletto, which were on special display.



We took a step back in time to the 1930s when we visited Home Farm. In Aunt Mary's Cottage the steward gave us a photo opportunity and, as we posed and had tea, the steward talked about what Mary's duties were looking after the farm workers. It was a time of change when electricity was taking over from steam to operate the farm machinery; Lord Egerton sounded as if he was quite a benevolent landlord because not only did the big house get electric lighting and flushing toilets but so did Aunt Mary, the only one on the estate. Today the farm is home to several rare breeds including Jersey cows – they are hoping that Jasmine, Hetty and Gracie will give birth next year to

increase the stock.

There are lots of different gardens on the estate but the highlight was the Japanese Garden (pictured right). It is in the style of a tea garden, complete with a mound with stones to represent the sacred snow-capped Mount Fuji. Inspired by the Anglo-Japanese exhibition in London in 1910, it is considered to be one of the finest Japanese gardens in Europe.



Monday 27th April saw us homeward-bound with a couple of hours at Sudeley Castle (pictured left). Built in the 15th century, it has many royal links including Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's final wife who outlived him, secretly married Thomas Seymour and moved to Sudeley where she died five days after giving birth and is buried in the church, the only privately-owned castle to have a queen buried in its grounds. The castle fell into ruin until it was bought by John and William Dent of Dents Gloves in the 19th century. They partially restored it to how we saw it on our visit. The formal gardens

cover 15 acres and are delightful, including the Knot Garden whose intricate design was inspired by the fabric of a dress worn in a painting of Elizabeth I that hangs in the house.

It was a great holiday. Many, many thanks to Marilyn Medforth who organised it – she did a wonderful job. (Photos: Gill Thomas)

VAL ROYAL, B.E.M.

We are proud to say that a Honiton u3a member has been awarded a B.E.M...

I'm sure you've all seen the TRIP vans around Honiton but you may not know that they exist thanks to a Honiton u3a member. Val Royal founded the Transporting Rural Isolation Partnership (TRIP) 29 years ago. She worked with Devon County Council to establish a service that would link people living in isolated rural areas with essential services such as shops, doctor's surgeries and medical appointments. TRIP also provides a valuable social service, organising short holiday trips, Sunday lunches and a weekly Friendship Hub in Honiton.

Val's pioneering work has been recognised in the King's Honours List and she has been awarded a British Empire Medal (B.E.M.). Her tireless work and resourcefulness have made a huge difference to the quality of life of many older and vulnerable local residents. Congratulations Val, an honour much deserved.

GLASS OF WINE, ANYONE?

Who knew that the famous Australian Hardy's wines actually began much closer to home. Alison Sharples reveals all...

I was scrolling through the Ottery Heritage Society website when I discovered this fascinating article in Ottery Heritage Journal number 62, written by Chris Saunders:

'Thomas Hardy, founder of the vineyards which produce Australia's best known brand of wine, was actually born in Gittisham. He was born in 1830, and with his family he set sail for Australia at the age of 20 and landed in Adelaide, South Australia. His first work in Australia was for John Reynell, a member of a Newton Abbott family who had already found that grapes grew well in Australia. Here Hardy learned much of wine making from his German fellow workers.



Hardy married his cousin who had travelled to Australia with him and after trying a variety of jobs he bought his first piece of land. In 1853 he purchased a property of 46 acres and in 1854 planted 2 acres of fruit trees and 0.75 acres of Shiraz vines.

He made his first wine in 1857 and exported two hogsheads (large oak cask used for transporting and aging wine) to England in 1859, one of the first exports of wine from South Australia. By 1894 Thomas had become the largest winemaker in the colony and the press labelled him "The father of the wine industry in South Australia".

So, let's raise a glass to Thomas Hardy and enjoy the fruits of his labour

PLANTERS WITH A PUNCH!

Russ Connors describes how he fell in with a group of community gardeners that led to his labours in Black Lion Court...

The aim of the group was to identify public areas in Honiton that had become neglected and then apply some TLC. This usually involved weeding, a general tidy-up and some low-maintenance replanting. We worked on the planters outside the library, weeded and restocked the herb wall opposite, and tackled the flowerbeds behind The Beehive. It was surprising the impact just half an hour's effort could achieve. In the end age, injury and strong drink did for my fellow gardeners. I fancy I'm the last of the group still actively toting a trowel around town, with my efforts concentrated on one site, Black Lion Court.



Black Lion Court boasted three half-barrel planters, which, when I first saw them, were past their best days with daffodils in spring and dandelions the rest of the time. I had a plan – dig out the dandelions, thin out the daffs, add some seasonal planting and Black Lion Court would become a better place for shoppers, shops and everyone in between.

The transformation of the planters began. Out went the dandelions, in went fresh compost and feed. The plant stall in the market provided seasonal planting to fill the gaps. A quick water; mission accomplished! This routine continued for several years until complacency set in.

It took the arrival of a new business with a forward-thinking proprietress to shake things up. The containers, she pointed out, were falling apart. She would replace them and provide fresh compost out of her own pocket if I was willing to transfer the daffs over to the new containers. If we could also add some perennial shrubs in the containers, they would be almost self-sufficient, needing just an annual tweak in the spring. Somewhere in my mind a celestial choir struck up. Yes, this was the way ahead.

The day of the switchover I realised that a few details hadn't been fully covered. Our entrepreneur had provided four planters, each a bit smaller than the three originals. How do you distribute, equally, three clumps of daffodils between four containers, add a shrub to each new planter and fill them with fresh compost, in the rain, and dispose of the remains of three old planters and a huge mound of spent compost? I developed a whole new respect for those Colditz POWs trying to dispose of spoil from their escape tunnel.

The new planters looked much better and the amount of upkeep has declined dramatically. No one is going to ask me to design a garden for RHS Chelsea based on the Black Lion Court containers but does Black Lion Court look better than it did? The answer must be Yes!

HAPPY TIMES!

*Roy Buckley, member the new Biography Group, has already written a memoir called *Watching Paint Dry* (he was a paint technician). Here he remembers his childhood...*

On 6 October 1948, as recorded in mum Lilian's National Registration Identity Card, we moved to Eel Pie Island* at Twickenham. Our house was a bungalow called *Sans Souçi*, which is French for 'without worry' and hopefully was a good sign for the future. Dad was general manager for a new company called *Viking Marine*. The workshop was right outside our back door ... and there was a large slipway at the back directly into the river. Mum provided tea and coffee for the workers but her much prized speciality was bread pudding, which we kids loved as well. *Viking Marine* made small dinghies and other work boats and then developed into building lifeboats for ships.

There were only two bedrooms in the house, so Mum and Dad had the main one and we four kids shared the other, with two sets of double bunks ... a gap between provided excellent parallel bars for us to practise our gymnastics! There was a front room that was hardly ever used and we lived in the small kitchen, which had a solid fuel burner. No refrigerator but something called a KeptKold with an insulated cabinet and a concrete slab on the top; soaking the slab with water meant the evaporation cooled the interior. In the early 1950s, like so many others, we acquired a TV set to watch the Queen's coronation. It had a 9-inch square screen, but Dad also bought a magnifier that clipped onto it so that it expanded to a magnificent 12 inches!

The Island was a paradise for youngsters ... no cars, just a cinder footpath. There were wooded areas at each end that were, theoretically, out of bounds, but provided excellent play areas. A waste area in the middle was known as 'the dump', with the best ever conker tree for climbing. An annual fireworks party happened every 5th November for all the residents, about 50 in total. On one side of the island was a small stony beach that we called Brighton Beach. We used to bathe there and throw stones, trying to reach the other side of the river at Ham Fields. All four of us siblings learned to row a dinghy, normal rowing as well as stern sculling with a single oar.

The only access to the mainland was by boat; sometimes we would use our own dinghy but more often we would use the ferry, initially either a large rowing boat or a punt. The ferryman, Mark Moffat, was a grumpy old geezer. Later the ferry was adapted to a chain-wheel drive, which hauled it across the river. After we left the Island a pedestrian bridge was built and probably ruined the isolated atmosphere completely. We had seven glorious years there but then Mum fell pregnant again and we needed a larger house.

**Eel Pie Island was renowned in the 1950s and 60s as a home of jazz and rhythm and blues. The Rolling Stones had a five-month residency there in 1963, just before they became famous, and David Bowie also played there. Now it's home to artists and studios, quirky houseboats and boatyards. On the nearby 'mainland' is the Eel Pie Island Museum, well worth a visit*

GROUP NEWS

We love hearing from our Groups. Keep the updates coming in...

BOOK LOVERS – Gill Thomas

THE SIEGE by Ben McIntyre

1980: six Iranian Arabs stormed the Iranian Embassy taking 26 people hostage including two BBC employees, Simeon Harris and Chris Cramer, and PC Trevor Lock. For six days the nation was gripped by the tension of the situation. Television programmes were interrupted to bring live coverage of the SAS assault on the Embassy.

Verdict: As with all Ben McIntyre's books it is well researched and full of detail, sometimes, for some of us, too much detail to the detriment of the telling of a dramatic real-life event. But for me it was a spellbinding tale of a really dramatic event in Britain's history.

THE LEGACY OF HARTLEPOOL HALL by Paul Torday

Ed Hartlepool returns home from self-imposed exile to discover that his true inheritance is not only a stately home, Hartlepool Hall, but a £7 million tax bill, huge debts, an 80-year-old butler, a housekeeper who is still catering for lavish banquets for non-existent guests and a mysterious guest, the elderly Lady Alice. Perhaps the property developer boyfriend of his friend Annabel, who has plans to turn the pile into flats, is the solution.

Verdict: For those of us who had read and enjoyed *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* this was very different and slightly disappointing. The book is peopled with sad, frustrated people. And Alice was an enigma. Yet the downfall of an extremely wealthy family was gripping.

CORNISH SHORT STORIES by various authors

All the authors are Cornish and all of the nineteen stories are set in Cornwall and are about land dwellers and sailors, locals and incomers. The central theme of each of the tales tells a very different story: during a guided tour of Bodmin Jail a ghost appears and, unusual for a phantom, can speak; infidelity conducted in plain sight; the dramatic rescue from drowning of a sheep by lovers in a cave; forbidden lovers; the connection between two men and an injured seagull; a diver searching the deep for something lost.

Verdict: Some stories satisfied and evoked the Cornish landscape, others lacked a beginning, a middle and an end; the brevity sometimes created a feeling of being cheated.

CRIBBAGE – Val Frood

The Cribbage Group continues to meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in The Beehive Café at 2 p.m. We can have anything from 3 to 12 players but no matter how many turn up there is always a game for everyone, playing in either 2s, 3s or 4s. Fancy coming along for a taster? Whether you are new to the game and would like to learn or an 'old hand', there is always a welcome. Contact Val Frood via honitonu3a@gmail.com

GERMAN CONVERSATION – Brian Houlihan

The German group is actively seeking new members to join our friendly fortnightly sessions. We meet on alternate Tuesdays from 2–3.30pm at The Yellow Deli, High St, Honiton. We focus on practical words and phrases for travel, holidays and social use. There are no grammar drills, no spelling tests and no writing assignments. The group is suitable for complete beginners or anyone wanting to refresh forgotten skills. Why not come along to our next meeting to see if it suits you? It's very informal, relaxed and friendly! Interested? Contact Brian Houlihan at brianajh@gmail.com for more details and upcoming dates.

HISTORY GROUP – Stewart Raine

We've been having our meetings at Awliscombe Village Hall and have recently welcomed a number of new members to the group. However I decided to cancel our June meeting because of the intense heat and we'll start 2027 with the cancelled topic, which was the Normans in England and Sicily in the 11th and 12th centuries. The full list of topics is on the website and are either suggested by members or my own ideas and cover a wide range of subjects.

In July the topic was 'The Scramble for Africa', not our or indeed Europe's finest hour in retrospect. In August, we look at royal builders starting with Cyrus the Great, a Persian ruler of an ancient empire who created possibly the first garden in his palace at Pasargadae around 550BC. Later in the year we're going to explore the career of Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, who held office for about 20 years. Walpole was called on to sort out the aftermath of the South Sea Bubble, a bogus investment scheme that went disastrously wrong. If you're interested in joining the group please contact honitonu3a@gmail.com

NATURE APPRECIATION GROUP – Val Frood



It is no surprise that we talk about the weather so much in the UK. It is probably because of its complete unpredictability! Our Nature Group meetings are a typical example. In April we met at The Donkey Sanctuary in glorious spring sunshine. The group strolled along the lanes and footpaths around the sanctuary and even got to the cliff tops to admire the wonderful views along the Jurassic coast, all the while looking out for the flowers and plants expected to be seen in this early month of the year (pictured left, photo: Alison Sturley).

However in May, traditionally one of the best months for spring flowers, when we visited Farway Common

Airfield with our guide Ed Dolphin, it was grey, wet and miserable! Flowers were hard to come by and even the orchids, which normally give a wonderful display, were late in flowering. But having said that, Ed is always great at making these walks interesting.



Moving on to June, the sun was back with us again, and in the company of our guide Jon Gardiner from Wild East Devon we enjoyed a very informative walk around Holyford Wood near Seaton (pictured left, 8photo: Val Froom).

In July we plan to go pond dipping at Seaton Wetlands and we are just hoping the ponds haven't dried up in all this extreme heat.

This is my last year as Group Leader of the Nature Appreciation Group. I started the group in April

2022 and our first field trip was to Honiton Community Nature Reserve in May of that year. It has been a very successful group and has grown over the years, visiting a whole range of venues from woods and commons to beaches and animal sanctuaries.

I am hoping that someone from within the group will take on the role of Group Leader as it would be such a shame for the group to fold through lack of a leader. Or if there is anyone who would like to lead a Nature Group and take on the role, please get in touch to find out more. It is a great group with a wonderful membership and I will give you my full support in the transition period. Contact me via honitonu3a@gmail.com

READING FOR PLEASURE – Peter Searl and Hilary Lyne

Every Seventh Wave by Tom Vowler

This story, set in Cornwall, is a dark, bleak and atmospheric novel. Those of us who liked it (just over half) praised the good writing and found the novel involving and gripping, though with a grim subject matter. It is set on the Cornish coast where an ex-prisoner is living in a rundown house. He meets and shelters a trafficked woman who is trying to escape her captors.

Verdict: We enjoyed his writing and thought the novel well worth reading.

Conclave by Robert Harris

Conclave was very well received by the majority of the group, some even found it 'unputdownable'. It is a novel about a fictional Papal election and details the procedures, intrigues and conflicts among the cardinals who are electing the new Pope.

Verdict: Some of us found the twist at the end somewhat unbelievable but thought it was overall a good read, as Robert Harris's books generally are.

Girl Woman Other by Bernardine Evaristo

A Booker Prize winner with no obvious punctuation and unusual typesetting did not augur well, but the novel was almost universally acclaimed by our group. The author is of mixed race, as are the majority of the female main characters. The author draws on her personal experience of mainly urban living in multi-ethnic communities. There are twelve chapters featuring women of different ages and diverse backgrounds, depicting their struggles to integrate and succeed in a

rapidly changing society. These characters are seemingly unrelated but they all come together in a skilfully woven story that is very thought provoking.

Verdict: The total lack of punctuation is unusual but it works, as the author paces the narrative in such a way that the usual conventions are not required. The typesetting is spaced to slow down the narrative thereby giving the reader pause for thought. The writing is quite poetic in places. Scoring for this novel was high, with two giving the maximum score, and two actually read the book twice.

Fairy Tale by Stephen King

The story follows a 17-year-old boy who inherits the keys to a hidden shed that serves as a portal to another world. The book is almost structured in two halves; in the second half King's fantasy world is explored. There are many references to traditional fairy tales.

Verdict: Opinions were very mixed, with some saying the book was over long. Several really enjoyed the novel, a comment was 'amazing imagination by the author'. Others failed to finish the novel, citing 'short sentences' and 'adolescent fantasy'.

SINGING FOR FUN! – Janet Young

So far, in 2026, members of Singing for Fun! have been travelling in time from the 17th century to the present day and in location from the southern states of America to Somerset via various European countries, of course, all within our imaginations. We have sung rounds in two, three or four parts when standing in a circle and added harmony to some of our songs whilst sitting down, when the piano is sometimes allowed to join in as well.

In the past, we have sung both unaccompanied songs and songs accompanied by the piano. In 2026 we have been more adventurous. A simple sea shanty we first sang a while back is gradually developing into quite a substantial nautical experience. Simple vocal harmony is gradually being introduced into parts of an additional chorus but, best of all, we're employing the ship's concertina player and the ship's fiddler. Great atmosphere and fun! We'll stand up to sing it once we've put it all together.

This season, we have been venturing into very new territory for us. We are singing a song in Cajun style, in French, written by one of our very own members. This involves a guitar accompaniment with additional improvisation from a violin. A very special opportunity to experience something completely new and most enjoyable! It's rumoured that the guitarist and violinist may be getting together for a jam session ...!

Not to be outdone, a bass recorder has joined in too, underpinning a third vocal part in a Scottish folk song, partly sung in Gaelic. We certainly explore many styles!

Although we have a strong membership, we would welcome anyone else who would like to join us. You don't have to be an experienced singer or to be able to read music, just able to come to The Family Church, Honiton High Street, by Lace Walk Car Park, 2–3pm with an opportunity to chat afterwards, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP – Christopher Keen

Will you be going on holiday to Spain this year or have you already been? Do you want to build on your knowledge of the language? Are you interested in learning about the culture, traditions and history of the country? If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then please come to one of our meetings. Although it is not intended for complete beginners, my role as group leader is to facilitate conversation and share my experience of Spain – the country and its language – with as much or little grammar as you want. The main emphasis is on having FUN!

We typically start with a game of bingo, which helps with Spanish numbers and gets us back into speaking the language. We then talk about something we have prepared on topics of interest to us. These have included holidays we have enjoyed, where we grew up, where we worked and films we have seen.

We also have practical exercises, such as asking for directions or ordering in a restaurant and are fortunate to have the support of the national u3a Spanish Groups' coordinator, who issues a monthly newsletter that contains interesting articles on what is happening in Spain. We meet at The Beehive on the first Thursday of the month between 10–12pm. We shall be taking a break in July and August, restarting on Thursday 6th September. For further information please email me on christopher_keen@yahoo.co.uk.

WALKING GROUP 2 – Brian Houlihan



We have a countryside adventure together at a leisurely pace and with plenty of opportunity to observe our surroundings. We always enjoy a picnic lunch and there's no obligation to lead a walk, ever! We'll celebrate our 4th birthday later this year. Anyone is very welcome to join us for a taster walk.

**A spectacular view on our Angersleigh walk near West Buckland.
(Photo: Brian Houlihan)**

WALKING GROUP 3 – Brian Houlihan



We celebrated our 1st birthday in April, with a walk followed by lunch in the *Hare and Hounds*. In our first year we enjoyed 20 walks together! These walks are perfect for those who enjoy a more leisurely ramble! **View over Pen Hill, Sidbury, towards East Hill Strips.** (Photo: Brian Houlihan)

THE LAST WORD...

from Richard Spoerry, who asks for your ideas...

I hope that you have enjoyed this latest edition of *Inside Honiton u3a*. It’s great to be able to have such a wide-ranging overview of what goes on in our organisation, to hear about the life experiences of some members and to be entertained generally with such a breadth of contributions. What a strange summer it’s been so far, with pouring rain for days on end, followed by long, hot spells. Never mind, we’re British, so whatever the weather it gives us something to talk about! Finally, your committee is always looking to develop what can be offered to members. So, if you have any ideas for how we might further improve our organisation, please do let us know, either through the website or via a committee member. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

HONITON u3a TALKS 2026	
August 19	Summer event for members only at Cotleigh Village Hall.
September 16	Mayday in July by Jim Rider, an author and musician who lives in Honiton. The talk describes the forced landing of a Vickers Viscount airliner near Ottery St. Mary in 1980.
October 21	A Kayak Safari Around Cornwall and Devon by Rupert Kirkwood, describes some of the wildlife he has seen while kayaking around South West England.
November 18	The Real World of Jane Austen by Stewart Raine A look at the world of the late 18 th and early 19 th century, when there was much social unrest, industrialisation, fighting against Napoleon’s France, the slave trade and transportation to Australia.

December 16 **Christmas Social** for members only

*Meetings (unless indicated otherwise) take place at 2pm at the Beehive Centre, Dowell Street.
Doors open at 1.30pm and finish at 3.30pm.
The cafe will be open before the meeting for refreshments and light lunches
and will remain open after the meeting.*

GROUPS AND GROUP LEADERS

Group Leaders can be contacted by emailing: honitonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP	LEADER/ CONTACT	GROUP	LEADER/CONTACT
Book Lovers	Gill Thomas	Strollers	Jackie Moran
Page Turners	Pam Faulkner	Walking	Pauline and Tim Clark
Reading for Pleasure	Peter Searl and Hilary Lyne	Walking 2	Brian Houlihan
Play Reading	Alison Tucker	Walking 3	Brian Houlihan
Poem Sharing	Peter Searl	Nature Appreciation	Val Frood
Writing Group	Pam Faulkner	Historic Churches	Marilyn Medforth
Writing for Fun	Sue Horswood	History	Stewart Raine
Jane Austen Reading Group (JARG)	Linda Martin	Family History	Stuart Jones
Biography Writing	Kay Edge	Local History	Lynda Pidgeon
German	Brian Houlihan	French	Stephen Boyd
Conversation		Conversation	
Italian Conversation	Greg Arnold	Spanish Conversation	Chris Keen
Recorder Group (not Beginners)	Tricia Lewis	Lunch Club	Marilyn Adhamy
Handbell Ringing	Rhona Hitchcock	Sunday Singles	Rosie Dale
Singing for Fun!	Janet Young	Lunch Club	
Opera Appreciation	Derek Ballard	Wine Tasting for Fun	Richard Spoerry
Music Appreciation	Peter Williams and Howard Lyne	Groups 1&2	
Current Affairs	Peter Searl	Cribbage	Val Frood
Discussion		Games Group	Jackie Moran
Philosophy	John Sadler	Pickleball	Angela Brooks
		Bridge	Karon Sturtivant
			Derek Ballard

Knitting	Hilary Lyne	(Rubber) Smart Device Workshop Photography	Brian Churchill
Crochet	Ann Halse		Dennis Jacobs
Art for Fun	Gill Spoerry	Talking Art	Jan Prosser

DAYS AND TIMES OF GROUP MEETINGS

LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND ART

Art for Fun – 2nd Fri 9.30am

Biography Writing – 2nd Mon 10.30am

Book Lovers -1st Mon 2pm

Jane Austen Reading Group – 3rd Mon 10.30am

Page Turners (Book Group 2) – 3rd Mon 2pm

Reading for Pleasure – 4th Mon 2pm

Play Reading– 2nd Tuesday 10am

Poem Sharing – 3rd Tues 10.30am

Talking Art – 2nd Mon 3pm

Writing – Alternate Fridays 10am

Writing for Fun – 4th Mon 2pm

OUTDOORS AND SOCIAL

Nature Appreciation – 3rd Mon 10.30am

Strollers – 2nd Wed 11am

Walking – 2nd Wed 10am

Walking 2 (All Day) – 1st Mon **OR** 1st Thurs 9.30am

Walking 3 (Short Walks) – 2nd Thurs & 4th Wed 2pm

Lunch Club – 1st Wed at lunchtime

Sunday Singles Lunches 1st Sun at lunchtime

Wine Tasting for Fun (Group 1) – 1st Mon 7pm

Wine Tasting for Fun (Group 2) – 4th Mon 7pm

LANGUAGES

German Conversation – Fortnightly Tues 2pm

French – 2nd Thurs 10.30am

Italian Conversation – Twice monthly Mon **OR Tues 2pm**

Spanish – 1st Thurs 10.00am

MUSIC

Handbell Ringing – 4th Tues 2pm

Music Appreciation – Last Wed 2pm

Opera – 1st Thurs 7pm

Recorder Group – 2nd Mon 10am

Singing for Fun! – 1st and 3rd Tues 2pm

HISTORY, SOCIETY AND THOUGHT

Current Affairs Discussion – 1st Wed 10am

Philosophy – 3rd Thurs 2pm

Historic Churches – 2nd Thurs 10.30am

History – 4th Thurs 10am

Local History – 3rd Fri 10.30am

Family History – Last Mon 10.30am

Smart Device Workshop – 2nd Tues 10.30am

GAMES, SPORT AND CREATIVITY

Bridge (Rubber) – Weekly Wed 2pm

Cribbage – 3rd Thurs 2pm

Crochet Group – 1st Mon 2.30pm

Knitwise – 1st Wed 2pm and 3rd Wed 10am

Games Group – Last Fri 1.45pm

Pickleball – Weekly Fri 3.30pm and Sun 10.30am

Photography – 3rd Thurs 10am

HONITON U3A WALKING GROUPS ROUNDUP

Group Name	Frequency and Day	Time	Approximate Distance/ Duration	Status and Notes
Walking	Monthly, 2nd Wednesday of the month	10am	About 4 miles	Active, but full (can join a waiting list). Usually ends with a pub lunch.
Walking 2 (All-day walks)	Usually on the 1st Monday or Thursday	9.30am	8-10 miles	Focus is on all-day walks. Welcomes new members; taster walks available.
Walking 3 (Short Walks)	Twice a month: 2nd and 4th Thursday	2pm	2-3 miles	Perfect for shorter, more leisurely rambles.
Strollers	Monthly, 2nd Wednesday of the month	11am	Approximately 1.5 hours	Focuses on easy paths and social walks, usually followed by lunch.

HONITON u3a COMMITTEE		
Post	Name	
Chairman	Richard Spoerry	
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Anna Jacobs	
Secretary	Kay Edge	
Groups Co-ord.	Jackie Moran	
Network Co-ord.	Richard Spoerry	
Communications	Brian Churchill	
Programme Secretary	Suzie Blithe	
Magazine and Bulletin Editor	Honor Head	
Publicity	Robert Newell	
Committee members	Stephen Boyd Dawn Wood Jean Goss	

