

# SHORT WALK GROUP

U3A Short Walk Group The Short Walk Group meet once a month, on different days of the week, to accommodate the 30 plus, members of the group. Start time is 10.00 or 10.15 a.m. We often have eight to twelve walkers each month. The distance is always under three miles, and not too strenuous. The walks are surveyed beforehand by the leader, who is often accompanied by another member of the group, to ensure things run smoothly on the day.

We like to pause to enjoy the scenery, and we certainly have some lovely views and architecture in and around Bradford on Avon. We definitely enjoy the birdsong, and have seen a Heron and a Kingfisher along the canal, and whilst walking towards Widbrook, we pondered over a deserted Swan's nest! There are always plants and flowers to see and identify, and we enjoyed seeing the Bluebells in the woods of Inwood, in May.

During the winter months, the walks have mainly started from the Station Car Park, or other local meeting points near the town. However, during the year we have met and walked in Conkwell, Freshford, Cumberwell Park, Dundas, Southwick Country park, Holt, Lacock and Steeple Ashton. At the end of the walk we gather for refreshments in a cafe or pub and enjoy a natter – this is an essential part of the planning!

I am always keen to hear from anyone with ideas for new walks. It is my intention to arrange a programme of walks, which will be led by a different member of our group each month. They will have responsibility to survey the walk beforehand, and lead the walk on the day. We are a friendly group, and would welcome new members.

A slightly different format is now being used, whereby owing to the fact that our leader is having a well earned rest, the walks are being run by different group member each month. This is a good way for members to take charge of their own group and step in when a leader finishes their term of leadership.