

Youssouf describes the groups he has been involved with here in Hertford, including East Herts Geology Group, the walking group and his time with the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Originally it was, sort of, like an evening class, we were doing it at Ware, and they used to do loads of field trips and stuff, and Judy dragged me along, quite early on, 'cos the only A-level I got was geology before I got kicked out of school. So, I'd done the geology A- level but I didn't do the physics and the chemistry. But yeah, so she knew I was interested in geology and she knew I was interested in the field trips so she dragged me along pretty early on, when we moved here. But yeah, quite early and just got stuck into it. It was a good group, good gang of people. When the college kicked us out of the building because they wanted to do hairdressing and all that sort of stuff, we formed a club around the people who were in the geology class and just carried on doing the same sort of thing, organising a club, organising field trips, all that sort of stuff. There's a St. Albans group and East Herts. The East Herts group is more of a hobby group and just a bit of fun. The St. Albans group are all hugely educated and learned and publish papers and all sorts of things. And we do mix and match a bit but they're the clever lot and we're just the lot that bumble around.

There's the walking group as well. Again, this walking group came out from being in the White Horse. Just people used to go out walking and we used to say, "*Let's all get together and go for walks*". And we started the first Saturday of the month walking group and we used to do like local walks, bits and pieces there. Then we started getting a bit more ambitious and we started doing sort of like longer walks. Then we get the bus to go somewhere and then walk back, or we'd get the train to somewhere and then walk back and it's just become a regular thing. We was talking about this during the lockdown, and I looked back through my archive of emails and I've got walk plans we put together at the end of the 90s and we're still doing it now, sort of twenty odd years later, still doing it, still crazy. But yeah, there's about ten of us that regularly go, first Saturday of every month. We did smaller things during the lockdowns...

I used to be on the committee for the Institute for Advanced Motorists. I was a member trainer, I used to take people out in their cars to do the training, all that sort of stuff. There are two, like, advanced driving qualifications you can get. But I came away from that because there were racists on the committee and I didn't want to spend any more time with them, yeah, and in those days it was quite difficult to get the hierarchy of the Institute to do anything about anything so I just walked away from that, didn't really, well, I missed it for a bit but that's been and gone. Hertford's a pretty good place to be honest, there's not much of it. I'm fairly thick skinned about it, Jan will notice it more than I will.