

**U3A**

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



of

**HIGHBRIDGE**

**MAGAZINE**

**November-----December**

**2014**

ISSUE NUMBER 79

**Your Committee**

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Prefix all telephone numbers with STD code 01278

Coffee Mornings are held every Wednesday at The Highbridge Community Hall from 10.00 am to 12.00 am. You are very welcome to join us.

**Website: - <http://www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk>**

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## Chairman's Message

Thank you all so much for the support you gave to the Macmillan Coffee Morning; we raised an amazing £430.25; once again you gave whole heartedly to make it a great event. We have written to Isleport Foods to thank them for donating some of their wonderful cakes, etc. that we were able to serve with our coffees.

It never fails to amaze me how the time passes by, it only seems two weeks ago since I was preparing the report for the magazine and yet here we are two months on doing it again. The next time I write it will be 2015!

Before then of course we have Christmas looming, lots of hustle and bustle as we prepare for the festive season. I am on holiday in Penzance and it does seem strange to be wishing you all a "Merry Christmas" at the same time. There is still plenty for us all to do, parties and concert to attend, presents and cards to buy, always busy, busy busy.

My regards to you all---Pearl

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## Editorial

Hasn't this year flown by? We are fast approaching the end of 2014 and in eight weeks it will be Christmas, to be quickly followed by 2015. Our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, have you thought of a suitable celebration yet?

However, in the meantime may I, on behalf of your Committee, wish all members a very Merry Christmas and we also hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2015.

I suspect that because so much happened during the past year many of you may not have a lot of time to sit back and appreciate just what happened in 2014. The days quickly ran into weeks, into months and now the year is nearly over. It started with a lot of rain, followed by floods then a fairly good summer, and then we had an exceptionally good autumn.

## Editorial –(continued)

Those members who took advantage of the holiday in Weymouth certainly had a perfect week; the weather was ideal and the warm clothing they thought might be needed, stayed in their cases. The hotel was on the seafront and those with sea view rooms were able to hear, if windows were left open, to hear the tide lapping the shore. The sun certainly shines on the righteous.

Thank you Dianne and Brenda for organising the holiday, and that day out you managed to arrange which took members to Lyme Regis, West Bay and Portland Bill, was truly a bonus. It was also thoroughly enjoyed by 'our guests'.

We hope the weather in January 2015 for the Eastbourne Holiday will be kind to us and that our stay will be as enjoyable as the last time.

## Group News

### Keep Fit:

When this group restarted on 1<sup>st</sup> October after its summer break we anticipated there would be an influx of support, regrettably, it did not materialise. Initially it was popular and had received good support but due to various reasons the attendances fell away, we even moved its activity to the Community Hall. Roger Cross, its leader made every effort to keep it going but it was not to be.

We thank Roger for making the offer to run a Keep Fit Group at the Boxing Club's Gym, your keep fit programme is certainly not the 'run of the mill' method and it did get results; we are sorry it did not take off. Sorry Roger.

### Photography Group

What did you think of this Group's film show? The first one, scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> about the Burnham Food Festival, did not happen because Kevin, the Group Leader, had had an unfortunate accident and although mobile was not able to set it up. Trust you are now feeling better Kev?

The images taken at Stourhead House & Gardens show that the groups' members are enjoying putting their newly learnt skills to good use.

The next show is on 12<sup>th</sup> November and covers the Bristol Balloon Festival and Night Glow. Should be good!

## Group News

### Proposed New Groups

We have recently received two offers to form new groups, the ladies, both non-members, wish to know if there would be sufficient interest within the membership to form:-

- a) A group to teach Cross Stitch, this would probably need to comprise perhaps 4 or 5 members so that 'one-to-one' tuition would be possible. This is a hobby that involves very fine work and therefore requires good eyesight.
- b) Art and Design, this lady dropped in during our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and asked if we had any Art Groups. She is keen to teach members having recently had experience teaching the subject in South Devon where it was very well received.

If you are interested in taking up either of these subjects please let me (Ken Burston) know, I will then obtain more information regarding where, when and how much.

## "Holiday"

## in Eastbourne

The first holiday booked for 2015 is to be in Eastbourne, we will again be staying at the Claremont Hotel that is on the Esplanade opposite the pier, you may remember seeing/hearing that it was badly damaged in a fire some time ago.

When we stayed at the Claremont Hotel in September 2013, (was it that long ago?) we had a great time. We were well looked after, the food and facilities were excellent, the staff being very friendly, and the weather wasn't too bad either.

~~~~~

Just a thought?      If you try to fail and succeed, which have you done?

And,                      Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

### Group News--- continued

It is rare, very rare, for me to receive information about group activities, I can only assume each group is happy with its lot and each must feel that if it's not broke, don't try to mend it.

It would, however, be nice to hear from them once in a while; just a few lines to let the rest of us know that they are enjoying what they do. There may be some members who would like to join you if only they knew what you did; please let me have a few details occasionally.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

This was again a great success, the cake sales, raffle, Tombola, etc. raising a total of £430.25 for the Cancer Fund, a good result considering it was purely an 'in house' membership event. Well done Pearl, the "Chairman's Charity"?

### American Picnic

This turned out to be a non-event, not surprising really; the weather had not been too good at the time and the event was a last minute announcement, a 'bit too late in the day'. Never mind, we will try again next year when the weather might be better!

### "Sale of Work"

At the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December those groups that produce items e.g. Cards, Beading, Crochet, Patchwork/Quilting, Mosaics, Art (Paintings) and Photographic Images, bring their 'works of art' along to show us all what they have achieved.

It is also possible the items will be displayed and be offered for sale.

It would be very helpful if it is your intensions to display and offer items for sale you advise the Committee so that sufficient tables and space are allowed that morning. We have no wish to inconvenience those who come along every week for their coffee and a chat by taking up too much space with the displays.

### “Away Days”

We are coming to the end of a very successful “Away Day” programme; the last outing for this year is to Salisbury in order to visit the Christmas Market, plus a visit to the Wilton Outlet. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November is the allotted day so it is hoped you all have a good day shopping.

The programme Vour and Carole produced for this year has proved to be thoroughly enjoyed by all and were all fully booked, that speaks for itself.

There always has to be ‘a fly in the ointment’, this year it was the proposed trip to:-

### The Houses of Parliament

Vour received an email mid-September advising that the Central Tours Office in Parliament had found it necessary to cancel our proposed visit. Because our group would probably number 46 in total they would have had difficulty providing the required number of security staff to escort us. An alternative date for the visit was given as Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November; unfortunately this happens to be the day before our Salisbury trip, mentioned above.

Vour said this was not acceptable and has asked for a new date in 2015.

In order to compensate members for missing the trip to London, Vour, by quickly ringing around, was able to find an alternative venue----the Sherborne Castle and Gardens in Dorset.

#####

Creative Writers Group what do they write about? I understand they set themselves a task to write a ‘story’ based on an agreed phrase, about a ‘60 word challenge’. I received some examples recently, here is one:-

*“Mummy, mummy, mummy, it was an accident”!* Said three year old Nicholas.

*“Abbey’s fallen in the fish pond. She’s crying, and all the fish food is soggy. She was feeding the fish and fell over the wire on the edge. She’s all scratched—her wellies are wetted and the fish are swimming round her. Hurry! Mummy we must save Abbey”*

### Russian Federation Ushakov Medal

Member Donald Norman Leonard was presented with this medal on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August to recognise his involvement in Arctic Convoys during WW II. We are proud of our Arctic Convoys veteran; Don regularly attends our weekly Wednesday Coffee Morning.

It was on 20<sup>th</sup> August that Don received by hand, a very formal looking envelope, the postman requesting a signature to confirm its safe delivery.

Sent by the 'Embassy of the Russian Federation' it stated: -

"As you may be aware, on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree awarding the Ushakov Medal to the British Veterans of the Arctic Convoys, including yourself. (Donald Norman Leonard).

The letter went on to say: - This summer the Russian Embassy has started a series of presentations in London and other parts of the United Kingdom, You are invited to attend an award ceremony in Trowbridge Wiltshire on 29<sup>th</sup> August, the presentation being at 14.30 pm.

Don was accompanied by his daughter who drove them to the award ceremony in Trowbridge, the Ushakov Medal was presented to all the recipients by the Russian Ambassador to the U.K. Don has shown us his award, it was enclosed in a beautiful velvet lined case and came with a citation recognising the bravery of the Merchant sailors who provided, under extreme weather conditions, the supplies that Russia needed.

### World War 1 Centenary

To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the 'Great War' this U3A laid a floral tribute at the War Memorial in Southwell Gardens.

The tribute comprised a basket of poppies, decoratively arranged by Jean Williams and Fay Burston. That this U3A make a floral tribute to those who had fallen in WWI was suggested by Your Orchard during a meeting of the Floral Art Group, the poppies were purchased by group members.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 12.15 pm, Chairperson Pearl Price, supported by a group of members, conducted a short ceremony; the floral tribute was laid by member Betty Lambert.



## Parking and Obstructing?

There have been problems lately concerning the public's understanding of the laws governing parking; this information may prove to be useful.

In law 'Vehicle obstruction' is covered by a number of acts, on most occasions the Police use the Highways Act 1980. In essence you need to show that a vehicle is causing an obstruction to a member of the public. Quite simply, if a vehicle is parked in such a way that it prevents a person easily walking along the pavement then an obstruction offence applies. This includes entering/exiting a property in a wheelchair, mobility scooter, pushing a pram or using a walking frame/trolley.

**An obstruction offence occurs:**

If a vehicle is parked partially or wholly on a pavement so that you are unable to freely and easily pass.

If a vehicle is parked in front of a driveway/gate/walkway/drop curb.

If a vehicle is parked so that it prevents you freely and easily LEAVING your house/business/land.

However, the offence may NOT apply if a vehicle is parked in such a way that it prevents you from gaining access to your driveway or land.

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All the foregoing information has been taken from the "Senior Siren" a magazine provided by the Senior Citizen Liaison Team of the Avon and Somerset Police.

They confirm that if you are caused such an obstruction you should call your local Police on 101 to request Police attendance. A Police Officer or a PCSO can deal with the problem; they have the option of:

Locating the owner and asking them to remove the vehicle, or:

Issuing a fixed penalty ticket to the vehicle or requesting its removal by a tow truck.

Please don't worry about calling the Police for an obstruction, as this is something that can be simply and quickly dealt with.

### Your Local Police

Use the number 101 for non-emergency and for general enquires only.

For an Emergency ring 999

## Group Activities

| Week                              | Time           | Group            | Venue | Leader                             | Tel.             |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>Monday</u></b>              |                |                  |       |                                    |                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                   | 10.00 to 12.00 | Card Making      | S.H.  | Rose Bateman                       | 795906           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 0200 to 03.30  | Kurling          | C.H.  | Stan Vousden-White<br>Sybil Tilley | 781567<br>787054 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                   | 10.00 to 12.00 | Beading          | P.H.  | Rose Bateman                       | 795906           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 to 11.30 | Calligraphy      | S.H.  | Ken Burston                        | 782529           |
| Last                              | 02.00 to 03.30 | Creative Writing | P.H.  | Linda Knight-Rees                  | 783081           |

### Tuesday

|                                   |                                  |                        |      |                 |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 02..00 to 04.00                  | Mosaics                | P.H. | Alison Joyce    | 784635 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> (#)               | 10.30 to 12.00                   | Floral Art             | S.H. | Jean Williams   | 785240 |
| Every                             | 02.00 to 04.00                   | Art-1                  | S.H. | Maureen McLaren | 773804 |
| Every                             | 02.15 to 05.00                   | Board Games            | G.H. | Betty Worthy    | 795823 |
| Every                             | 10.00 to 12.00<br>02.00 to 04.00 | Patchwork<br>/Quilting | P.H. | Ann Lismore     | 787607 |

### Wednesday

|                                   |                |                    |      |                 |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 02.00 to 04.00 | Music Appreciation | P.H. | Sylvia Shepherd | 780377 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                   | 02.00 to 04.00 | Card Making        | S.H. | Rose Bateman    | 795906 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                   | 10.00 to 12.00 | Photography        | C.H. | Kevin Gainford  | 789374 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>                   | 10.00 to 12.00 | Happy Snappers     | C.H. | Kevin Gainford  | 789374 |

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.00 to 12.00 COFFEE MORNING Community Hall

## Group Activities

| Week | Time | Group | Venue | Leader | Tel. |
|------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|
|------|------|-------|-------|--------|------|

### Thursday

|                                                     |                |              |        |              |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                                     | 10.00 to 11.00 | Genealogy    | C.H.   | Roger Ouston | 795007 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> | 02.00 to 04.00 | Barn Dancing | M.C.H. | David Napper | 792371 |
| Every                                               | 01.30 to 04.00 | Art-2        | S.H    | Jean Berry   | 785840 |

### Friday

|                                   |                |                   |      |                              |                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 11.30 to 01.00 | Skittles          | C.I. | Phillip Buoy<br>Betty Worthy | 783647<br>795823 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 to ? ? ? | Strollers         |      | Self-regulating              | 792529           |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>                   | 10.00 to ? ? ? | Somerset Villages |      | Bernard Martin               | 787230           |

### Occasional

|           |             |                                               |  |                            |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Thursdays | "Away Days" | Your Orchard<br>Carole Loveridge              |  | 788984<br>780060           |
| Thursdays | Luncheons   | Pat Clipstone                                 |  | 788128                     |
| Saturdays | Theatre     | Diane Barnard<br>Brenda Clapp                 |  | 781009<br>787963           |
| Holidays  |             | Diane Barnard<br>Brenda Clapp<br>Gloria Brown |  | 781009<br>787963<br>785359 |

### Legends

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| S.H.....Southwell House         | C.H.....Community Hall |
| P.H.....Private Home            | G.H.....Gospel Hall    |
| M.C.H.....Methodist Church Hall | C.I.....Crossways Inn  |

Should you wish to join a Group please first contact its Leader.

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### Crossword

I was recently asked by a member, who enjoys compiling crosswords, if it would be possible to include a copy in the magazine, I thought was a good idea, so last month it was tried.

How did you get on? Comments please?

Herewith the answers to Crossword No 1

Across: - 1. Codicil    5. Grab    7. U3A    8. Falmouth  
 9. Chore    10. Espy    13. Seat    14. Ends  
 18. Soot    19. Sprig    21. Subtitle    22. Ire  
 23. Fern    24. Damages

Down: - 1. Churches    2. Diamond    3. Coffee    4. Lulled  
 5. Group    6. Acts    11. Yearning    12. Staggers  
 15. Soften    16. Stated    17. Esteem    20. Lure

### The Somerset Village Group

With only four fifth Fridays in a year the group used their third on 29<sup>th</sup> August, to visit Combe Florey. Where's that you might ask.

It is a small village just north of Bishops Lydeard on the A358, the name, apparently means "valley of flowers"; and in spring when the primroses and bluebells are out it becomes a beautiful wooded and floral valley.

Like most small Quantock villages it has a literary connection; in the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Reverend Sidney Smith (writer and wit) served the parish and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Waugh family set up home in Combe Florey House; the graves of Evelyn Waugh ("Brideshead Revisited") and his wife Laura are behind the church in a private plot. In a grave yard across the road is buried Auberon Waugh the newspaper journalist.

An impressive Elizabethan Gate House lies next to the church, built in local red sandstone and scarcely weathered; it bears the date 1593 which is thought to when it was completed.

The small church is also in rose-red stone similar to the Gate House and inside is a striking memorial, comprising a knight and his two wives; it is of Sir John de Meriet who died in 1300; his first wife, Mary who died when just 18, and his second wife Elizabeth who died in 1334.

It's an interesting village, a bit spread out, its pub the 'Farmers Arms' being half a mile from the village. We visited the small Village Hall where the villages main social events are held and found the local Ladies Sewing Circle busy at their weekly meeting "doing their own thing"; mostly patchwork. The next day (Saturday) they were to hold the Annual Village Show; as is usual we were warmly welcomed, spending some time chatting and explaining who we were and why we were in their village.

A very good lunch was had at the Farmers Arms.

### Strollers

The weather over the past months was much kinder to this group; they were able to visit a few new areas, having seen on TV that the Steart Marshes were open to visitors they gave it a try. It was still not completely finished but the group had a good outing, finishing up at Comwich, then back to Cannington for lunch. Another good day was held at Canada Combe and Hutton where you can get great views over Weston to Sand Bay.

## Short Stories

I have, in the past, often asked members to provide me with write-ups that can be used in this magazine; at last I have received a few examples. To set the ball rolling here is the first offering:

### Turn left just pass the Texaco Garage

£5,000,000! Wow! A tidy sum for someone to win on the Euro Lottery and that someone happened to be me! The numbers came up on the television when Keith and I were sat watching the news, we checked, double checked and double checked again, there was no mistake.

We're not sure which one of us came up with the idea of travelling to Europe on the Harley Davidson to pick up the cheque, instead of receiving it in the post, but we both agreed it would be a fantastic idea. I stopped and considered for a moment for I had never driven in Europe before and the idea of driving on the 'wrong side of the road' was a little disconcerting, but hey, being a millionaire I felt I could surely overcome such a minor problem.

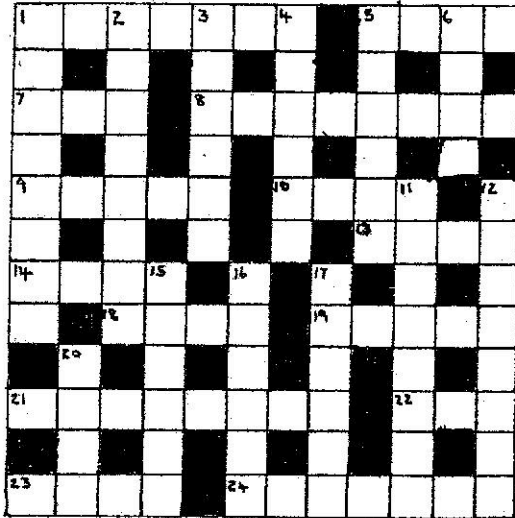
We disembarked from the ferry, both looking forward to a few days sightseeing before heading off to claim my prize. Being left handed *and* driving on the right hand side was definitely alien to me. To keep it simple, Keith, with one ear plugged into the Satnav while checking the maps, suggested he would touch my left shoulder when we had to turn left and my right shoulder to turn right.

This made sense as I needed all my concentration to manoeuvre through the traffic. After a while it seemed to work well, so I began to relax. We got lost a couple of times but managed to get back on the right track either by luck or judgement. I was beginning to wish I hadn't bought the cheaper Satnav thinking now; I probably could have afforded to buy the company!

Arriving close to our destination with a couple of hours to spare, we decided to stop for lunch and check to see where we needed to go for the last few miles. The café owner welcomed us and gave us clear instructions on where to go when we left.

Continued on Page 16

## Crossword II

Across

1. Continually (7)
5. Type of ship (4)
7. A popular group of the 60's (3)
8. An English town (8)
9. Gets closer (5)
10. Actual (4)
13. Precipitation (4)
14. Want (4)
18. A bargain, especially with  
cards? (4)
19. Ledge (5)
21. "Dial rife" a place to land  
(anag) (8)
22. Can be done 'in' or 'out' (3)
23. Search (4)
24. Thin but graceful (7)

Down

1. "Fine mine" for a lady (8)
2. Emitted from a wave (8)
3. Suitcases (6)
4. Prize (6)
5. Expel (a barrister) (6)
6. Not completely round (4)
11. A Cornish attraction (5-3)
12. Of interest to Family  
Historian perhaps (8)
15. Cause a loss of hearing (6)
16. Young eels (6)
17. Hold gently (6)
20. Chemical Element No 30 (4)





Monthly Draw

August No 14 Carole Loveridge No 14 Carol Bowden  
September No 10 Vour Orchard No 10 Betty Lambert

Each received £20.00

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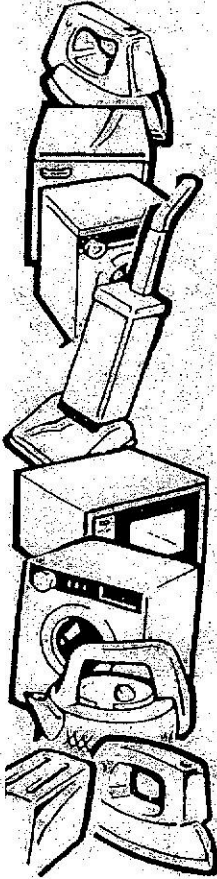


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**NOTE: - NOW SITUATED AT: -**  
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**Social Activities---2014**  
**“Away Days”**

**Salisbury Christmas Market**

**&**

**Wilton Outlet**

**Date: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**Cost £10.00**

**(Fully Booked-----Reserve list)**

Pick-up points for “Away Day” trips are:-

Berrow: - Triangle.

Burnham: - Morrisons, Pier St.

Highbridge: - Alpha House, Market St.

Times of Pick-ups for an “Away Day” trip will be advised when you make a booking and are always given on the ‘Payment Receipt’, if in doubt **PLEASE** check with Vour or Carole well before the trip.

**Holiday**

**Eastbourne**

**Date: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January until Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

**(Fully Booked-----Reserve List)**

Cheques to cover payments for all “Away Days”, Theatre trips and Holidays must be made payable to **“U3A of Highbridge Social Account”**

Please also add your name, address and phone number on the reverse of the cheque, this: -

- a) helps to identify you on the passenger list, and
- b) If a trip is cancelled you can be notified quickly.