



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



of

HIGHBRIDGE

MAGAZINE

January----February

2014

ISSUE NUMBER 74

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. All are very welcome to join us.

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Note: In accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 information relating to this Club's members will be held on a computerised database and will be used solely for this Club's business and communications.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Editorial

**On behalf of your Committee Members may I wish everyone a Happy,
Healthy and Prosperous New Year?**

2013 was no different to any past year, it flew by, as they all do. We in the U3A of Highbridge did, I feel, have a successful year; it started with a holiday in February on the Isle of Wight and ended in October with another holiday in Eastbourne. Members enjoyed the two get-togethers and are looking forward to the next holiday that is scheduled for February 2014.

Our “Away Day” trips visited some interesting places and I think those planned for this year will appeal to most of you. Vour and Carole have put together a very interesting programme, it is hoped they will suit all tastes, there are some interesting places lined up.

We have two new groups starting during January, on Wednesday 8th January the newly introduced Keep Fit Group meets for the first time. Roger Cross, its Leader is a Registered Boxing Coach and he has assured us that the exercises will not be too arduous, no pumping iron or weight lifting. Another new group is the Happy Snappers, this starts on 22nd January and will be led by Kevin Gainford; he will be instructing members on how to improve their camera techniques.

**Also new, is our own website, this new venture will enable those members who like to surf the net to log on to www.u3ahighbridge.org.uk On the website you will find information about the U3A of Highbridge, its events, groups, photographs, etc. It will need to be up-dated fairly regularly, so if you have information that you think will be of interest to other members please let our Webmaster know about it:-
Webmaster is Darryl Knight-Rees and he will be looking after our website and our interests for a while. His Tel No is on page 2.**

Editorial Continued

You may have noticed that there is something else new, the size of type; it is understood that some members experience a little difficulty when reading their magazine because their eyesight is not what it was. I therefore decided to try out a larger type so see if that helps.

In this magazine I have changed Page 2; “Who’s Who” information is now more legible and the details of Groups and Co-ordinators is now included in Pages 10 & 11.

Continuing the ‘new’ theme we have:

The holiday in Newquay Cornwall will be from Monday 3rd February until Friday 7th February at the Daish’s Barrowfield Hotel.

Diane Barnard and Brenda Clapp will provide the start times etc. in due course.

“Dancing & Dining at the Ritz” is on Saturday 1st March, this Social & Supper is being organised by Pat Clipstone, the all in price will be £10.00 and it is from 7.00 pm until 12.00 pm.

If you are interested please let Pat know as soon as possible so that the catering can be arranged.

Next is the U3A of Highbridge’s Annual Lunch, this is again at the Beachcomber Inn, Brean, on Wednesday 19th March the menu and booking form are on Pages 7 & 8.

Our return to this venue is by popular request, they have always ‘done us proud’; the meals are certainly good value for money and the staff always make us feel welcome. There will be the usual quiz to keep you occupied whilst members are served with their carvery lunch and we will again have the free raffle.

I think that completes the ‘NEW’ information for the time being.

Club News

Because Christmas Day fell on a Wednesday last year we were unable to hold our weekly Coffee Morning, ‘ aah’ I believe that was the first time it has happened.

1st January this year fell on a Wednesday and, unfortunately it presented me with a problem. I needed to get the magazine details to the printers well before Christmas so that they were able to produce it over the holiday period.

Also, I had to check with Group Leaders to find out when their Groups would be restarting following the festive shut down; the dates are given below:

Here goes; Groups will restart as follows:

Art-1:	Tuesday 7th January.
Art-2:	Thursday 9th January.
Barn Dancing	Thursday 9th January
Beading:	Monday 20th January.
Board Games & Quiz:	Tuesday 7th January.
Calligraphy:	Monday 13th January.
Card Making:	Wednesday 15th January.
Crochet & Knitting:	Wednesday 15th January.
Creative Writing:	Monday 27th January.
Floral Art:	Not until Tuesday 24th April
Genealogy:	Thursday 9th January.
Happy Snappers:	Wednesday 22nd January. First meeting.
Keep Fit:	Wednesday 8th January. First meeting.
Kurling:	Monday 6th January.
Mosaics:	Tuesday 7th January.
Patchwork & Quitting:	Tuesday 7th January.
Photography:	Wednesday 8th January.
Skittles:	Friday 3rd January.
Strollers:	Friday 10th January.
Somerset Villages:	Friday 31st January

The ‘Happy Snappers’ and ‘Keep Fit’ Groups are new to our programme, so would members please note their details.

Group News

By-the-way, on Wednesday 15th January we will receive a visit from David Hill of Somerset Road Safety, he will be giving advise on how we, who are considered to be the elderly, can keep ourselves safe on the roads. The theme of the talk deals with those of us that are still able to drive; tips on how to be prepared for any unforeseen problem.

Like, remembering to keep your mobile phone fully charged and to take it with you on any journey, it may only be to the shops, but have it with you. The talk covers what you need to do should you consider going on long journey, such as allowing extra time, especially if the weather is bad.

Although some of us do use our cars a lot we can always pick up useful tips, they may save your life and that of someone else.

Joy Daine, a member of the Thursday Art Group has an exhibition of her work in the Art Centre at the Princess Theatre in Burnham-on-Sea. It started on 24th December and ends on 11th January.

Advance information: -

The next Theatre trip will be on Saturday 26th April to the Weston Playhouse, the show it is a Musical

“ME & MY GIRL.”

The musical is based on the story of a refined Cockney gentleman named Bill Snibson who learns that he is the heir to the 14th Earl of Hareford.

The action is set in Hampshire, Mayfair and Lambeth.

(Do you remember the ‘Lambeth Walk’, or are you too young?)

I understand Diane and Brenda are already accepting provisional bookings, so if you are keen to see this show make a note in your diary and contact them soon. (Di. 781009 or Brenda 787963)

Annual Lunch

At

The Beachcomber Inn Brean.
On Wednesday 19th March 2014

Menu

Main Course:

A Traditional roasted Topside of Devonshire Beef

B Local roasted Somerset Turkey

C Vegetarian Nut Roast

All served from our renowned carvery with a selection of freshly cooked seasonal vegetables, potatoes together with usual accompaniments.

Desserts:

D Traditional Deep filled Apple Pie

E Chocolate Fudge Cake

F Fresh Fruit Salad

G Cheese Platter, tasty Cheddar & Brie with a biscuits selection

Coffee & after dinner mints

Please refer to Page 8 and decide what you want for your lunch, fill in the order form and hand it to Fay Burston.

Annual Lunch

Wednesday 19th March 2014
12.00 am for 12.30 pm

At
Beachcomber Inn. Brean

PRICE

Members:----- £ 11.25 Guests:-----£ 13.25

Name:.....

Address:.....

Also I which to book a lunch for.....Guest

My choice from menu is:

Main Course	A	Dessert	D
	B		E
	C		F
			G

Please indicate your choice

Would you please complete this application form, with your menu choice/s and hand to: - Fay Burston at a Coffee Morning between 5th February and 5th March at the latest.

Paid:..... Date:.....Receipt No.....

“Away Days” for 2014

The following are the proposed day trips for this year:

**Thursday 20th March-----Bristol Blue Glass Tour and Buffet
Lunch.**

Friday 11th April -----Tyntesfield House.

**Thursday 22nd May-----Hampton Court Castle Gardens and
tour of Castle.**

Thursday 19th June-----Bournemouth

**Thursday 17th July-----Salisbury and Wilton Outlet
Shopping**

Thursday 11th September-----Tintern Abbey and Chepstow

October-(Date to be arranged)---Houses of Parliament

**Thursday 27th November-----Birmingham and Christmas
Market.**

More detailed information about the above proposed trips will be provided as soon as possible, e.g. What you can expect to see during your visit and what other attractions may be available.

All prices, times of departure etc. will be advised when available.

Group Activities

Week	Time	Group	Venue	Leader	Tel:
<u>Monday</u>					
1 st	10.00 to 12.00	Card Making		S.H.	Rose Bateman 795906
1 st & 3 rd	02.00 to 03.30	Kurling		C.H.	Stan Vousden- White 781567
2 nd & 4 th	10.00 to 12.00	Calligraphy		S.H.	Ron Turner 787231
3 rd	10.00 to 12.00	Beading		S.H.	Jessie Maddox 782786
Last	02.00 to 03.30	Creative Writing		P.H.	Linda Knight- Rees 783081

Tuesday

1 st & 3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Mosaics		P.H.	Alison Joyce 784633
4 th (*)	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	Patchwork			
	02.00 to 04.00	/Quilting		P.H.	Ann Lismore 787607

(*) starts again in April

Wednesday

3 rd	02.00 to 04.00	Card Making		S.H.	Rose Bateman 795906
1 st & 2 nd	10.00 to 11.00	Crochet/Knitting		C.H.	Lorita Gainford 789374
2 nd	10.00 to 12.00	Photography		C.H.	Kevin Gainford 789374
Every	12.45 to 2.00	Keep Fit		B.C.G.	Roger Cross 284753
4 th	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:
<u>Thursday</u>					
1st	10.00 to 11.00	Genealogy	C.H.	Roger Ouston	795007
2nd, 4th & 5th	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

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

Occasional

Thursdays	“Away Days”	Vour Orchard	788984
		Carole Loveridge	780060
Thursdays	Luncheons	Pat Clipstone	788128
Saturdays	Theatre	Brenda Clapp	787963
		Diane Barnard	781009
Part Week	Holidays	Brenda Clapp	787963
		Diane Barnard	781009

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.
B.C.G.....Boxing Club Gym.	

Should you wish to join one of the Groups, please first check with its Leader to ensure there is a vacancy.

Sandra

Hairdressers

We welcome O.A.P.'s

3 Market Street
Highbridge, Somerset
TA9 3BW
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“Third Age Matters”

The 2013 Winter Edition of this Magazine contained a report on the present state of the Third Age Trust and its ‘family’ of U3A’s.

During the year the total number of U3A’s in the UK has risen to 908; and the overall membership is now approaching 320,000.

Over 15 new U3A’s were admitted to the fold during the latter part of the year; and you may be interested to learn that the U3A with the largest number of members is Sheffield U3A. It has over 3,000 members; being a major industrial city it obviously has a large population to cater for; over the years it has confounded those who thought that with a membership that large it would be unmanageable.

They have overcome this problem by creating drop-in centres within the city thus providing a room for a monthly meeting. It also has links with the two of the city’s universities, these include for the provision of monthly lectures for U3A members.

This year’s National Summer Schools are to be held as follows: -

Monday 14th July to Thursday 17th July at Harper Adams University
Newport near Telford.

Monday 18th July to Thursday 21st July at Royal Agricultural University.
Cirencester.

Details are available should you need them.

Strollers

It has been agreed that because the weather during the winter months is so unpredictable we will not, for the foreseeable future state where we intend to stroll on any particular Friday.

In future, a few strolls will be listed and, on the day we meet a decision will be made where to go, that is after we have judged the weather conditions.

We have, over the years, compiled a list of over 90 walks; the majority of them are within an acceptable mileage distance of Highbridge. Most of them we have used, at some time or other, so we can advise which are the most suited to the weather conditions on that particular day.

Dates are: Fridays 10th & 24th January
Fridays 14th & 28th February

Suggested strolls for these dates are:

Lakeside, Highbridge. Cheddar Reservoir.

Sand Bay.

Shute Shelve to Winscombe.

Another scam: I have recently received these details, so read mark, learn and inwardly digest; do not to get caught.

This one is being used all over the UK and is pretty scary, especially given the way they call you. So BEWARE!

You get a call from someone who says they have some information for you; it concerns a family member or someone you may know? Whoever it is, is ill or is in some sort of trouble, or they use the old trick of saying you have won a prize. They ask you to RING them, to confirm your details, that is the dodgy part--- Don't.

The number given you has a CODE 0809, 0284 or 0876.

These are located in the Dominican Republic and the charges are astronomical, and because YOU rang them YOU PAY!

The charge is about \$2,425 Dollars per minute, you won't want to know. Don't start the New Year by falling for this scam.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Some months ago Doreen and Ray Reddish donated to us the large sturdy hamper that they had previously used to raise funds for their favourite charity. It was agreed that we too would have a Christmas Hamper, fill it with Christmas Fare and have a bumper raffle, the proceed to be donated to the Children's Hospice South West. Following the appeal at a Coffee Morning for members to donate produce to fill the hamper we were, as usual, overwhelmed. So, once the hamper was full it was decided to retain include the surplus items as extra prizes to the main draw, there were eight in all.

The draw, at the Coffee Morning on 11th December, raised a total of £117.00 for the Children's Hospice, and the lucky ticket holders were: -

Bumper Hamper;- Angela Cook.

The subsidiary prizes were won by:-

Peggy Hicks, Diane Barnard, Kay Lloyd, Wendy Hughes,

Penny Howell, Betty & Pete Worthy, Jean Hancock,

Mary Akers and Kath Jones.

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Website information:

The Photography Group, not to be outdone by the Creative Writing Group, have also been included in a broadcast from 10Radio.org.

You will be able to hear the broadcasts if you wish because our Webmaster has put them both onto our website.

Somerset Villages Group

On Friday 29th November this Group visited Stoke St Gregory, the village lies along a ridge of high land with the levels of Curry Moor and the River Tone to the north and West Sedgemoor to the south.

The original village is quite compact, the church, shop, school and pub are within about 100 yds. of each other, the more recent residences are spread over a large area. On arriving in a village the group always heads straight for the church where most of the local history is to be found; the Church of St Gregory dates from the 13th century and is unusual in that it has an octagonal tower; in 7 of the faces there are statues of figures from the scriptures. When viewed from the churchyard it is difficult to discern who the figures are, they are referred to as the 'Doctors of the Church'

The beautifully carved Jacobean pulpit has figures of Faith, Hope, Charity and Time, plus a fifth which is said to be the Virgin and Child. The interior of the church is very light, giving the visitor the impression that it is quite large, on the north wall of the nave is a Royal Arms, the design shows the arms of George 111 from 1801 and 1816 but the monogram is of Queen Victoria. It is thought the churchwardens simply altered the frame when she came to the throne in order to save money. (A bit of recycling?)

To shelter from the cold wind that was blowing across the Levels the group also visited the Church Hall where they joined a few of the more elderly villagers who were enjoying a coffee break. It was here, whilst socialising, that they learnt the village pub, The Royal Oak, provides a very good £5.00 lunch on a Friday, so it was decided to take advantage of this opportunity, they enjoyed a very good lunch in cosy and warm atmosphere.

The Group's programme for 2014 starts on Friday 31st January and it has been suggested they visit Bridgwater (village?). Group members have agreed they do not know much about the towns' history, so a guided tour of the area may be a good idea.

Male Members Wanted

A radio play by the Creative Writing Group.

Last spring the Creative Writing Group was challenged, by Somerset Films & Video (which exists to promote film and digital media making in Somerset and the South West), to create a radio play for broadcast on local radio. 10Radio broadcasts on 105.3 FM and www.10radio.org out of Wiveliscombe to 10 parishes, hence the name.

The Creative Writing Group was rather bemused by this request since we were in the habit of producing mostly prose and poetry. It seemed a monumental task for 7 disparate writers to cooperate in the production of a radio play. Fortunately Grace (Galton) came up with a scenario; a local Amateur Dramatic Group looking for new male actors in order to put on their next performance. We were all allotted characters and worked on our lines. A lot of extra meetings, revision and discussions were involved and our efforts were being pooled by Linda. Finally, it all came together and Richard Tomlinson, from Somerset Film came to one of our meetings to record the play.

This was an unusual experience for most of us: having to raise our hands when our character was about to speak, then having a woolly microphone shoved under our noses to catch these lines. Kathy, having her part recorded separately as it is mostly 'asides' and incorporating sound effects of hovering, tea making and so on. In fact, the afternoon's recording session might have produced a wittier play than all our efforts as playwrights.

A few weeks later we were invited to meet Richard at the Engine Room in the Bridgwater headquarters of Somerset Film & Video. We were treated to coffee and a tour of the premise, where we noted portrait photographs of some of U3A members, taken by the Photography Group. Then Richard drove us over to Wiveliscombe to record an interview and broadcast our play

Only five of our group were able to attend but this was just as well since the recording studio was so small I felt quite claustrophobic.

You can hear the play and our interview if you access the U3A website on <http://www.u3ahigbridge.org.uk>

Janet Raine

Monthly Draw

October	No 27	Pam Scales	No 27	Brenda Hawkes
November	No 25	Sybil Tilley	No 25	Thelma Tripp

Each received £20.00

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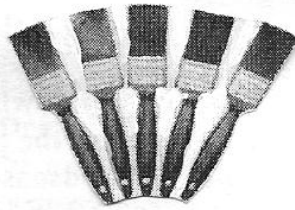
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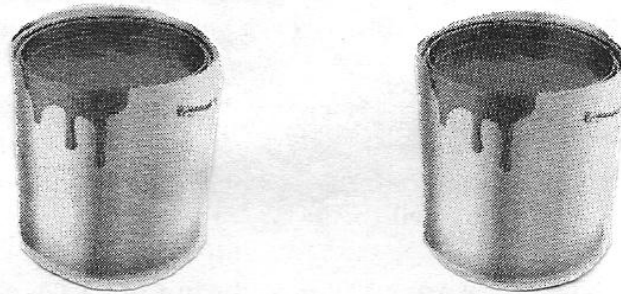
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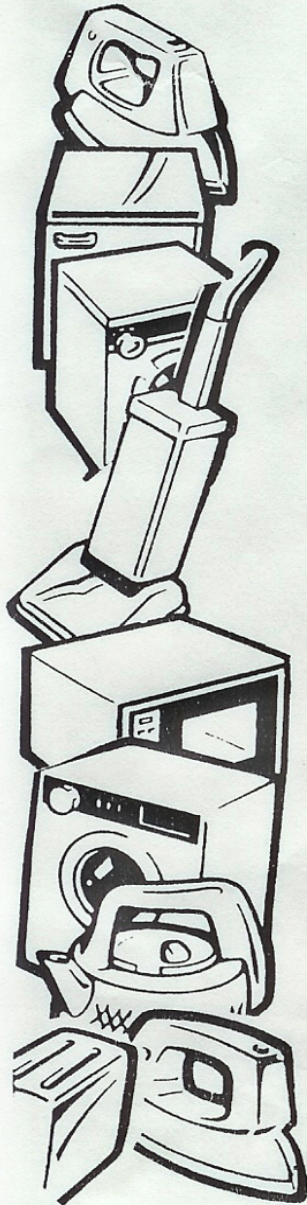
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**NOTE: - NOW SITUATED AT: -
27 VICTORIA STREET~~~BURNHAM-on-SEA**

Social Activities---2014

Holiday:

Date: Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February 2014

At: Daish's Barrowfield Hotel. Newquay, Cornwall

All holiday information will be given to 'holidaymakers' as and when it becomes available.

Pick-up point for all will be Market Street Bus Stop

Theatre

Date: Saturday 26th April

Show: "Me and My Girl"

Price: To be advised.

"Away Days"

A list of the proposed trips for 2014 is on Page 9, relevant prices will be advised when available; in the meantime make a note of the dates, etc. for future reference.

Pick-up points for "Away Day" trips are:-

Berrow: - Triangle.

Burnham: - Morrisons, Pier St.

Highbridge: - Alpha House, Market St.

Times of Pick-ups for all "Away Day" trips will be advised when making a booking and are always given on the 'Payment Receipt', if in doubt PLEASE check with Vour or Carole well before the trip.

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.**